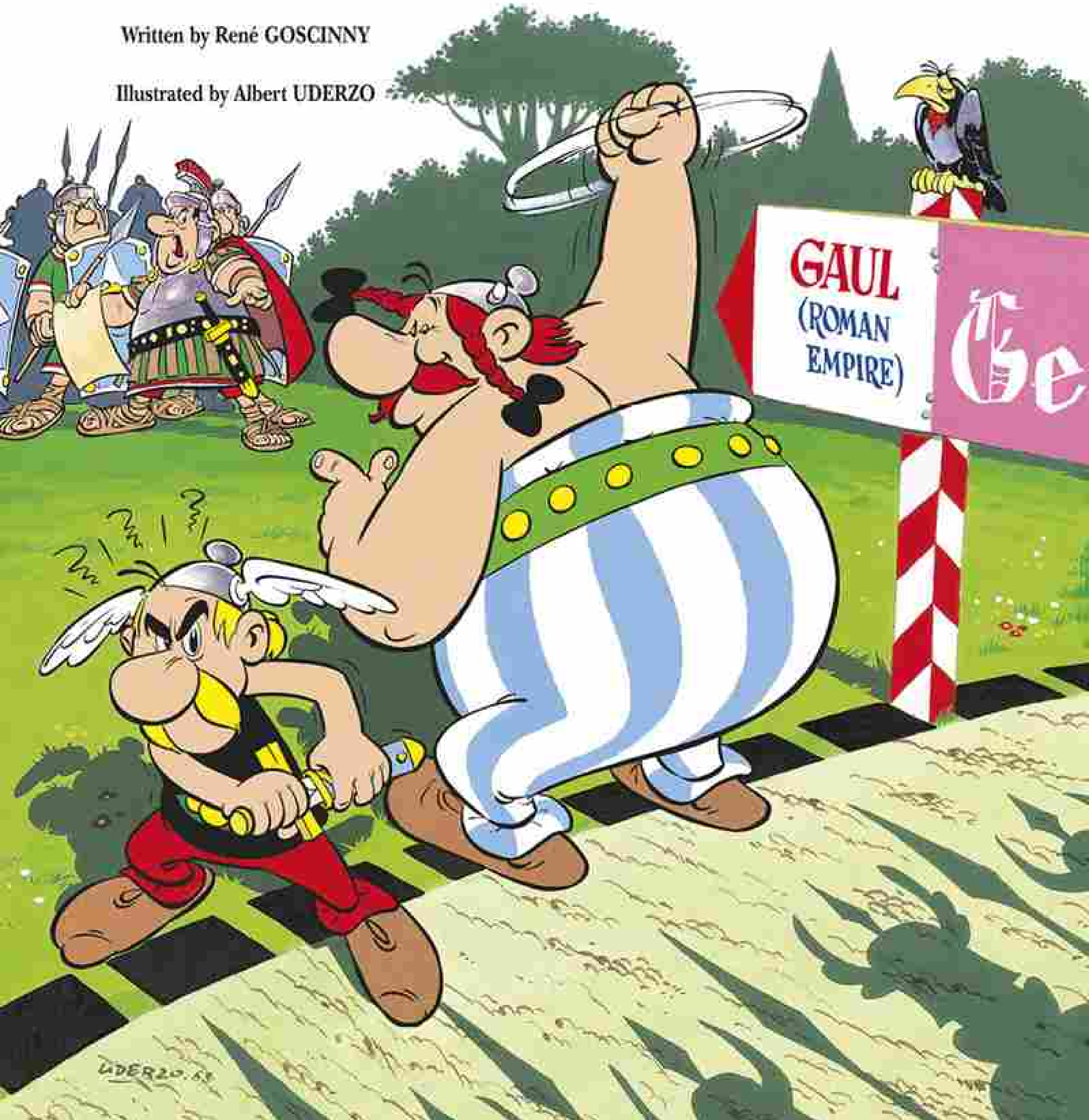


R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

Asterix and the Goths

Written by René GOSCINNY

Illustrated by Albert UDERZO



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

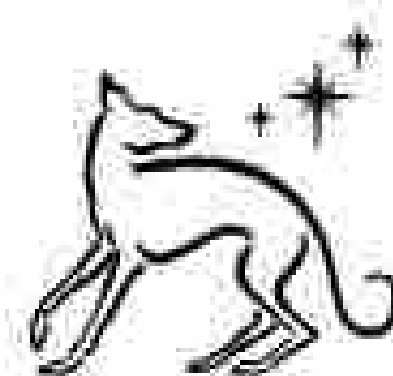
PRESENT

An Asterix Adventure

ASTERIX AND THE GOTHS

Written by RENÉ GOSCINNY *and Illustrated by* ALBERT UDERZO

Translated by Anthea Bell *and* Derek Hockridge



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AN ORION CHILDREN'S EBOOK

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THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY ... ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM ...



ASTERIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES. A SHREWD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTERIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX . . .



OBELIX, ASTERIX'S INSEPARABLE FRIEND. A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTERIX - SO LONG AS THERE'S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.



GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE . . .

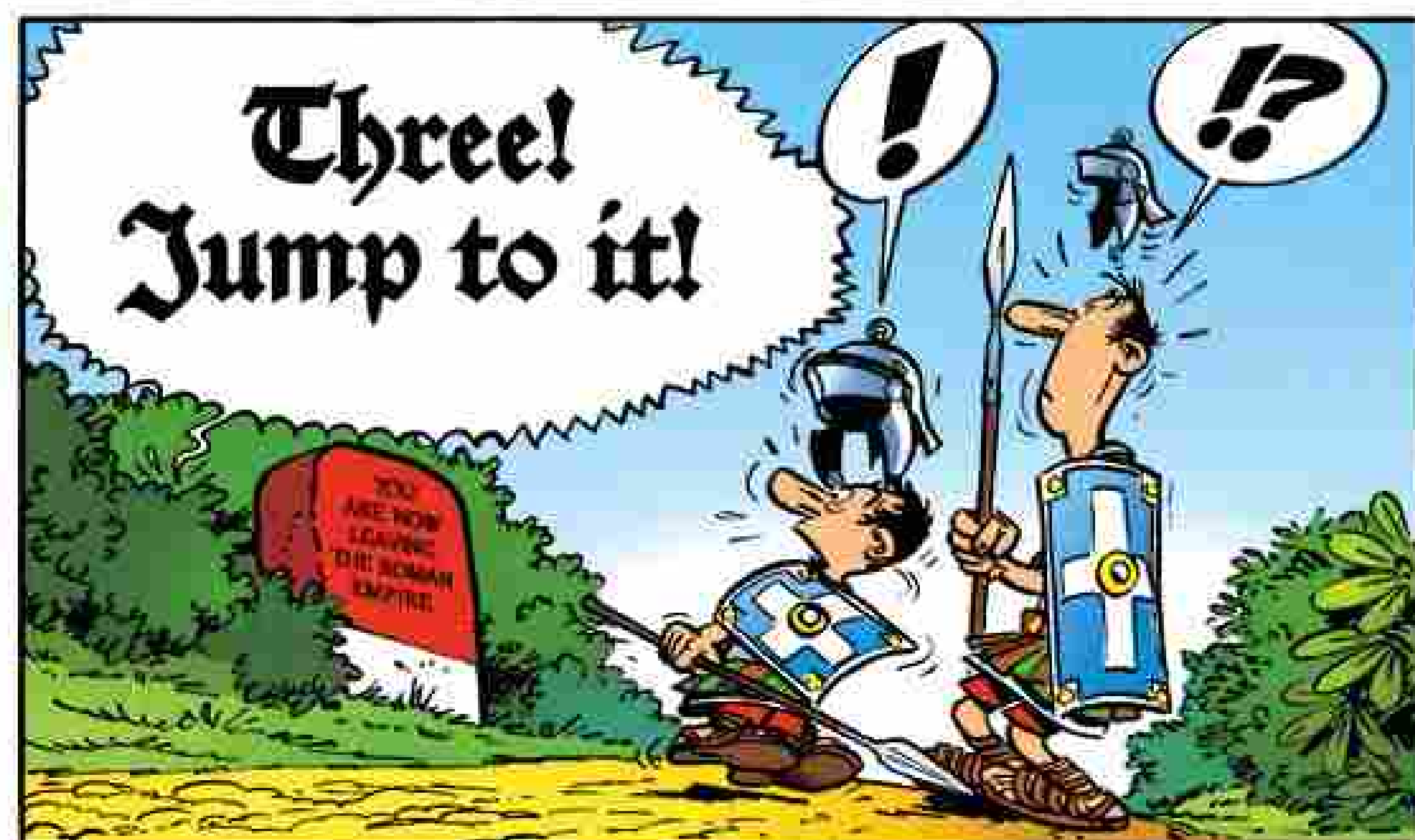


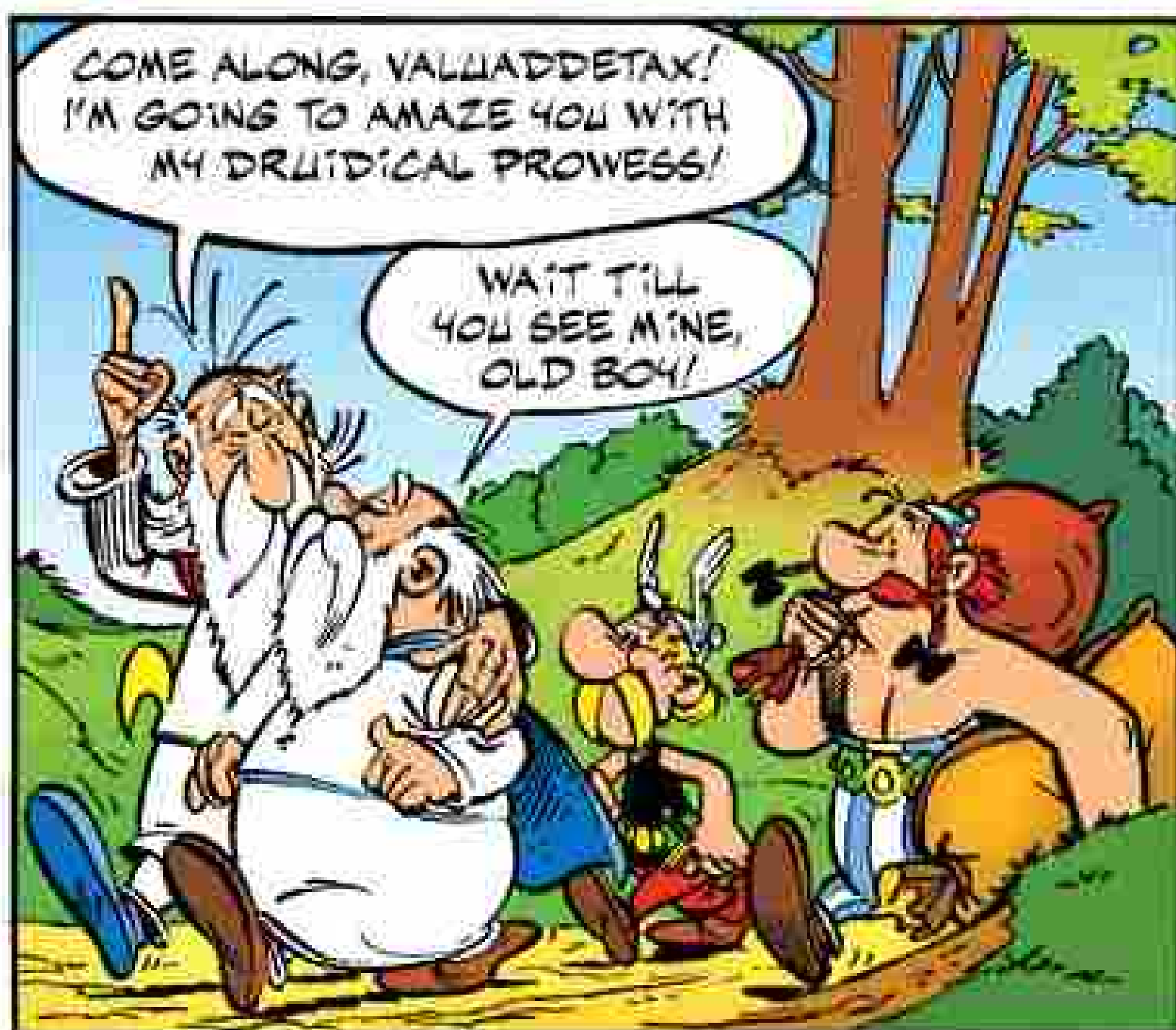
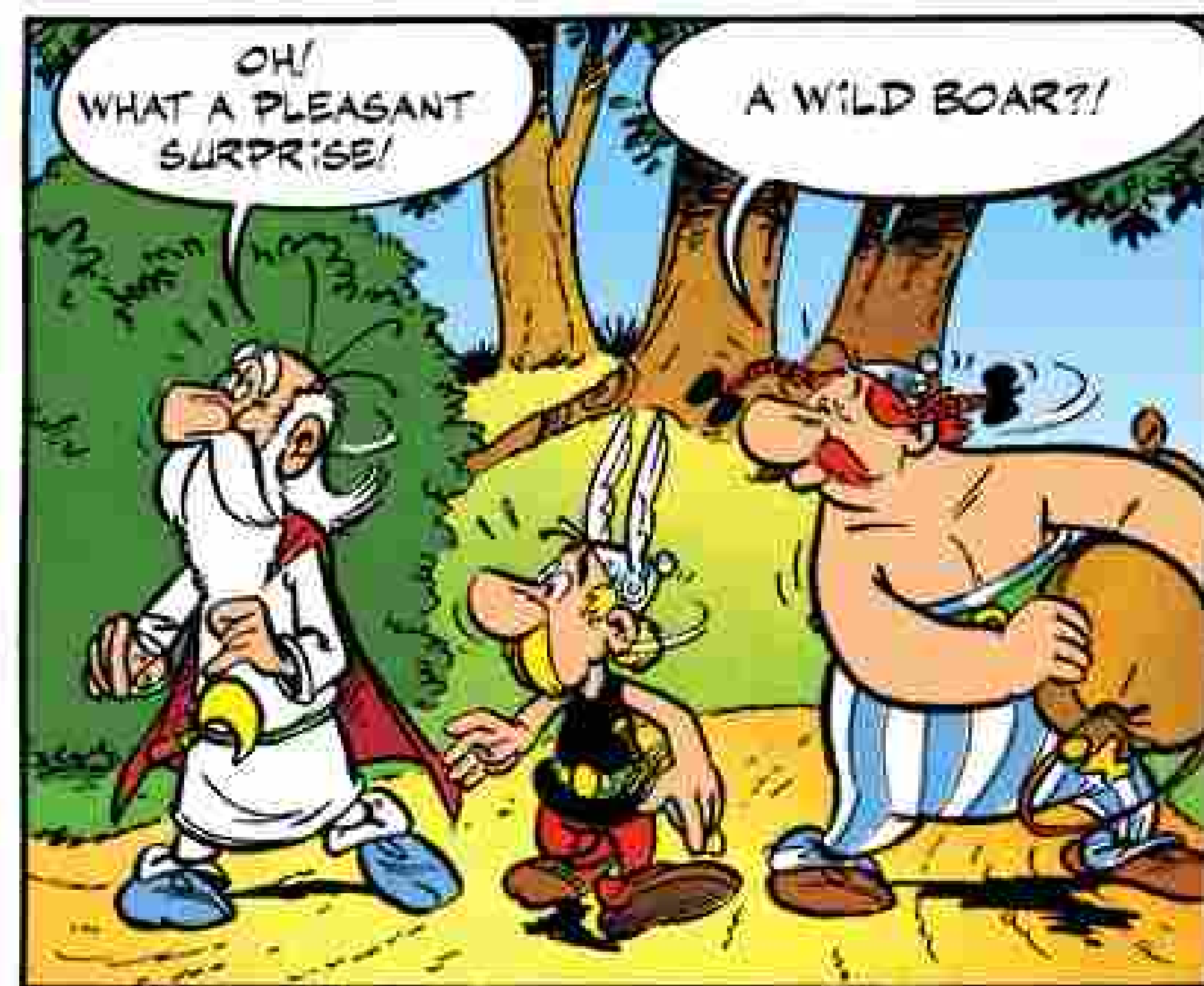
CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE'S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE'S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM . . .

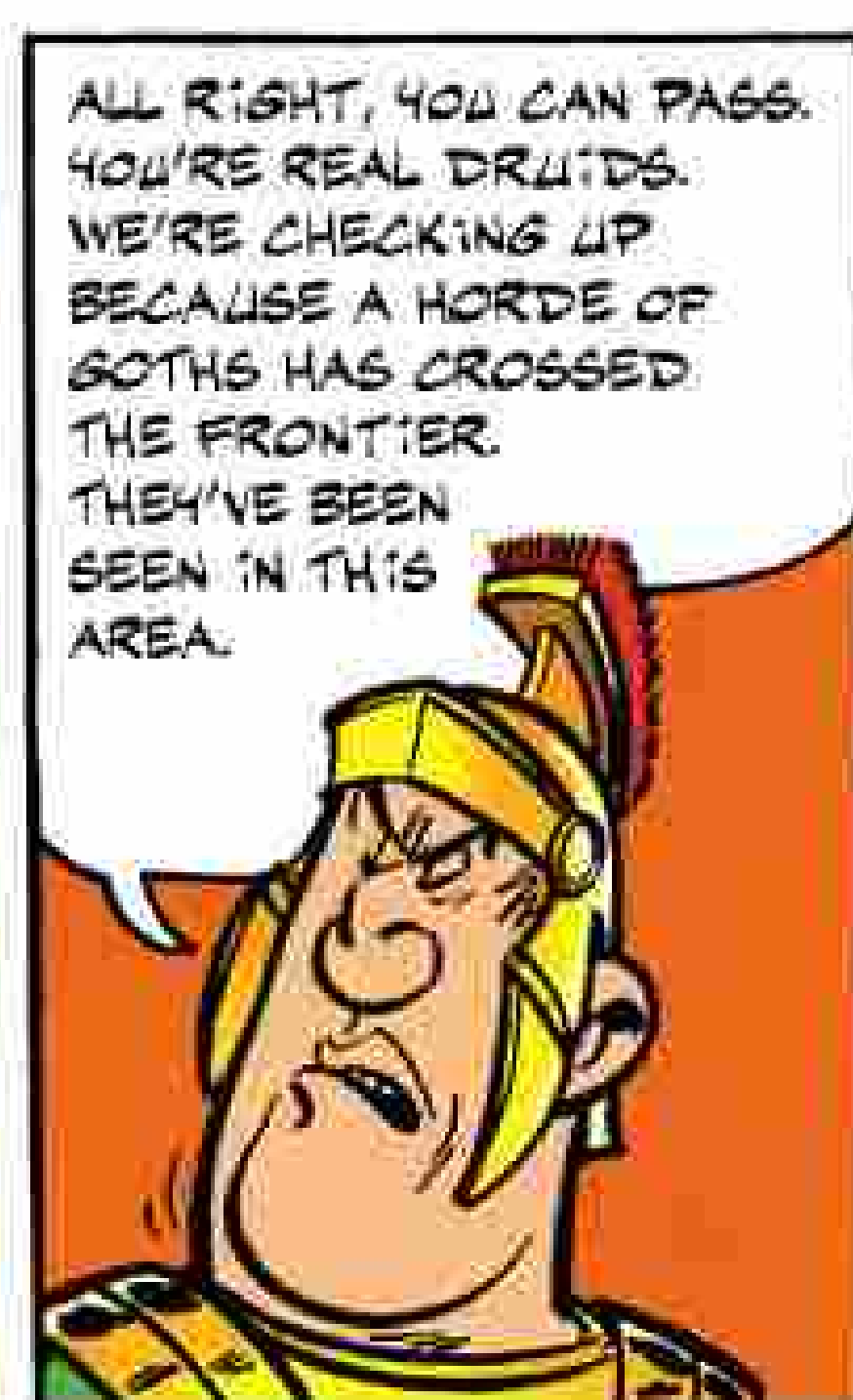


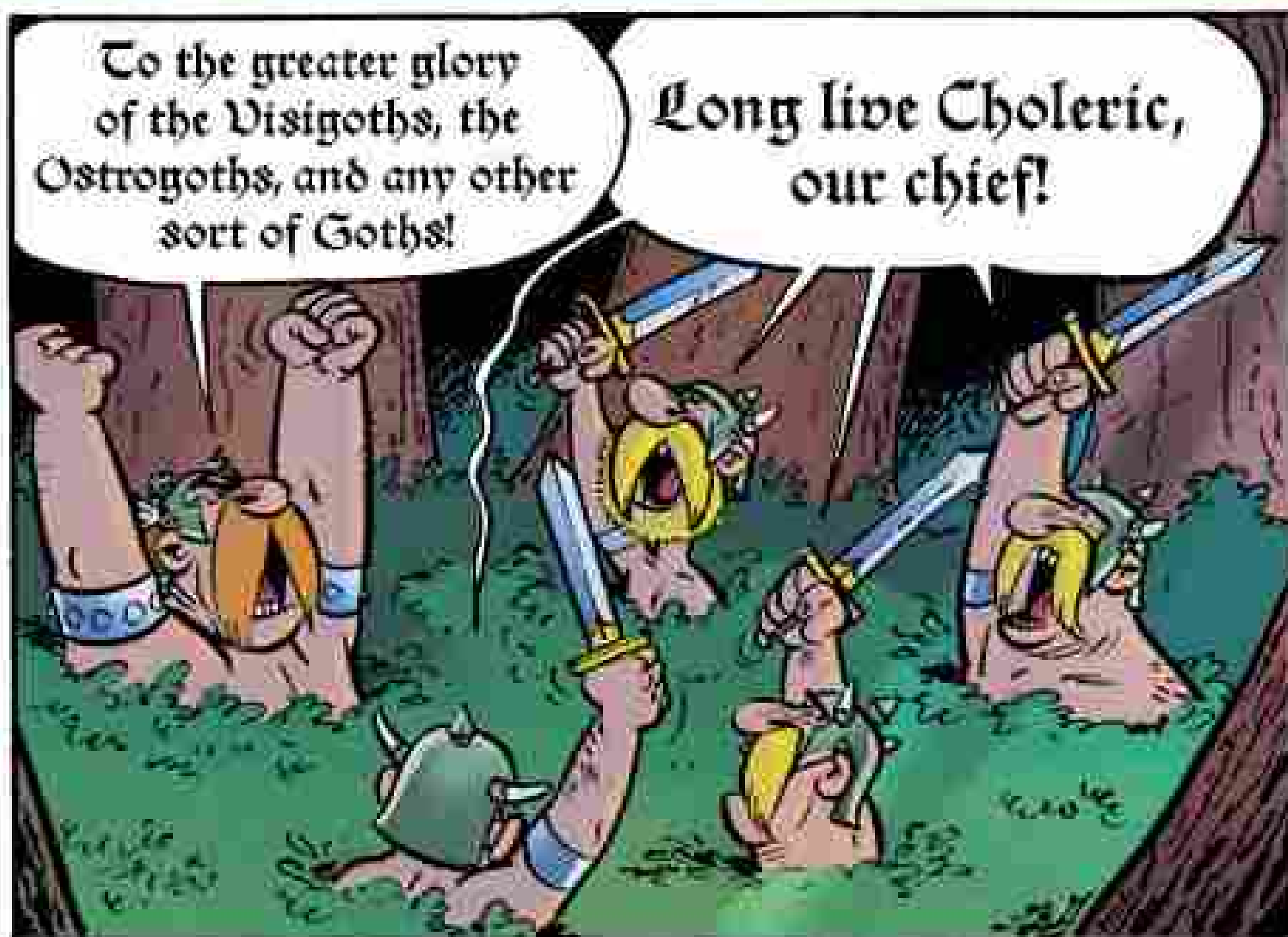
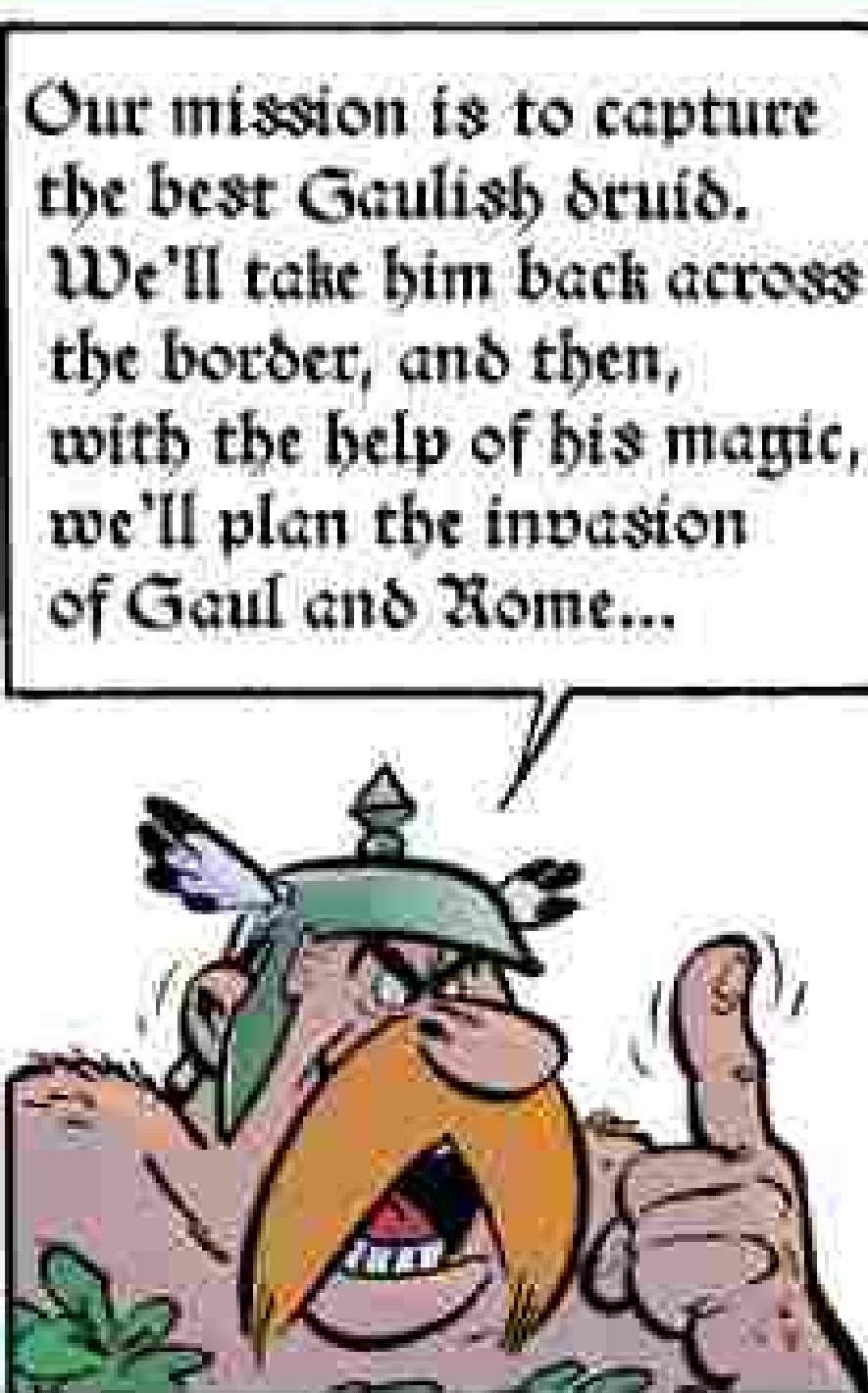
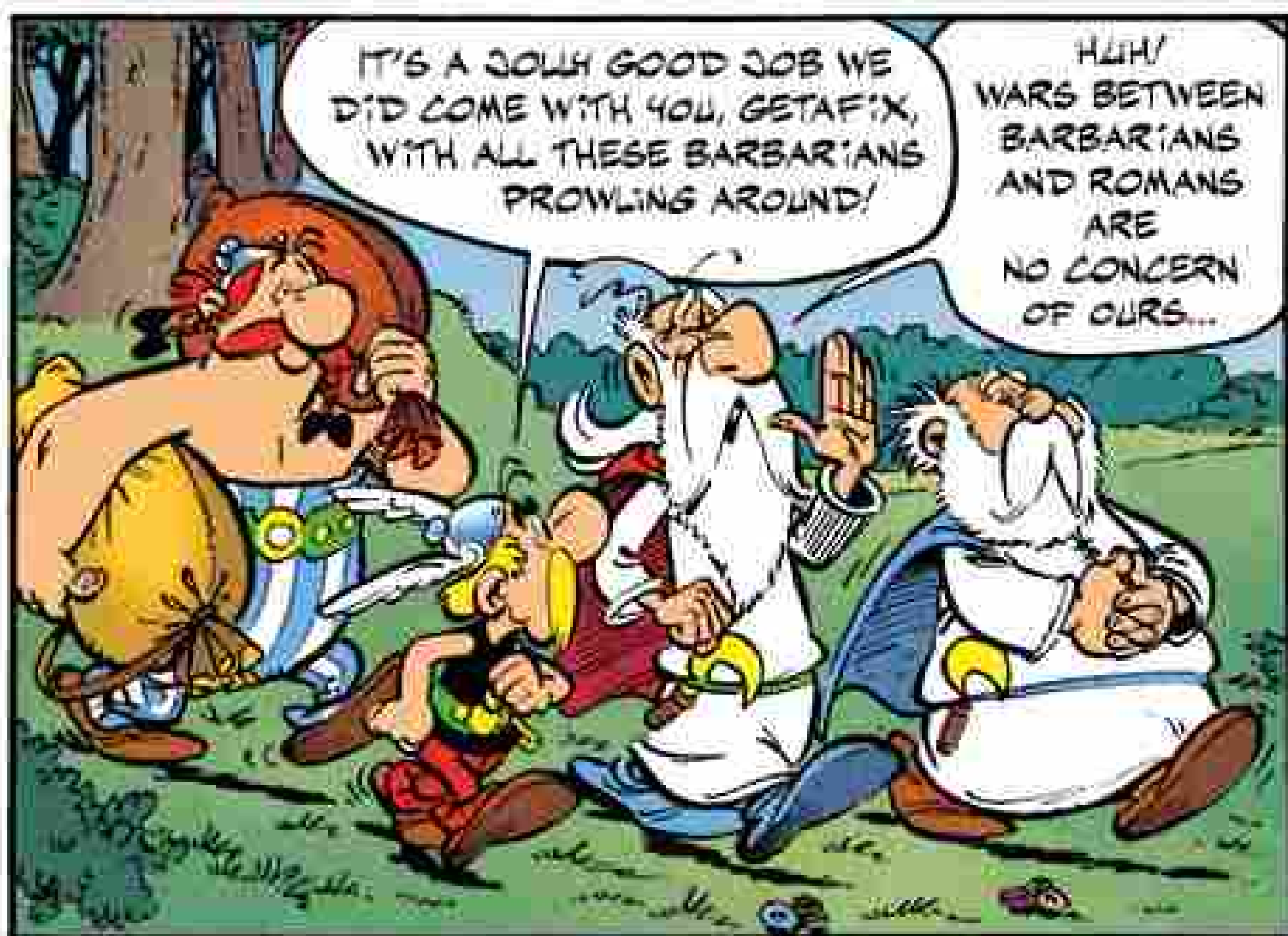
FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED, THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW. BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.

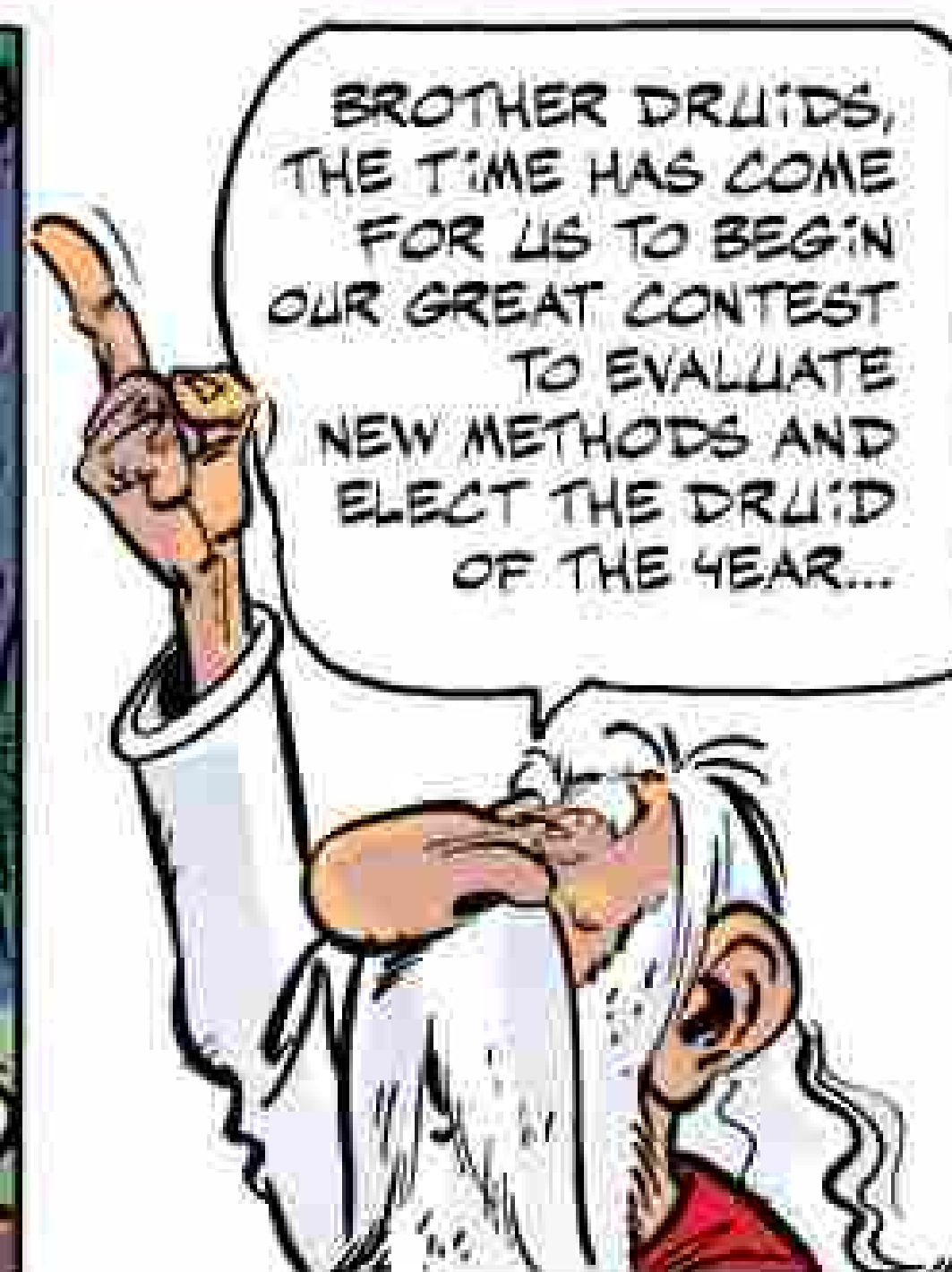
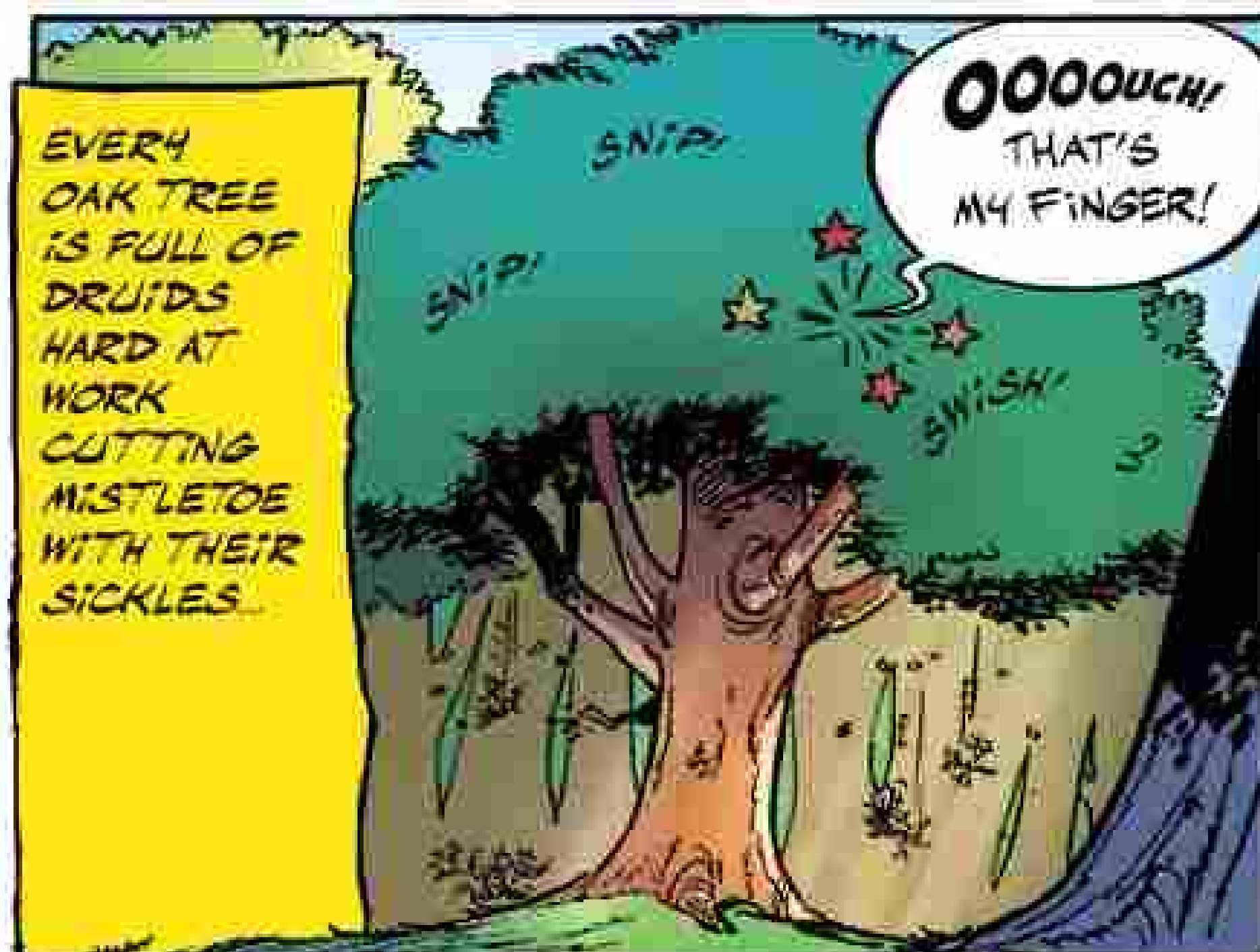


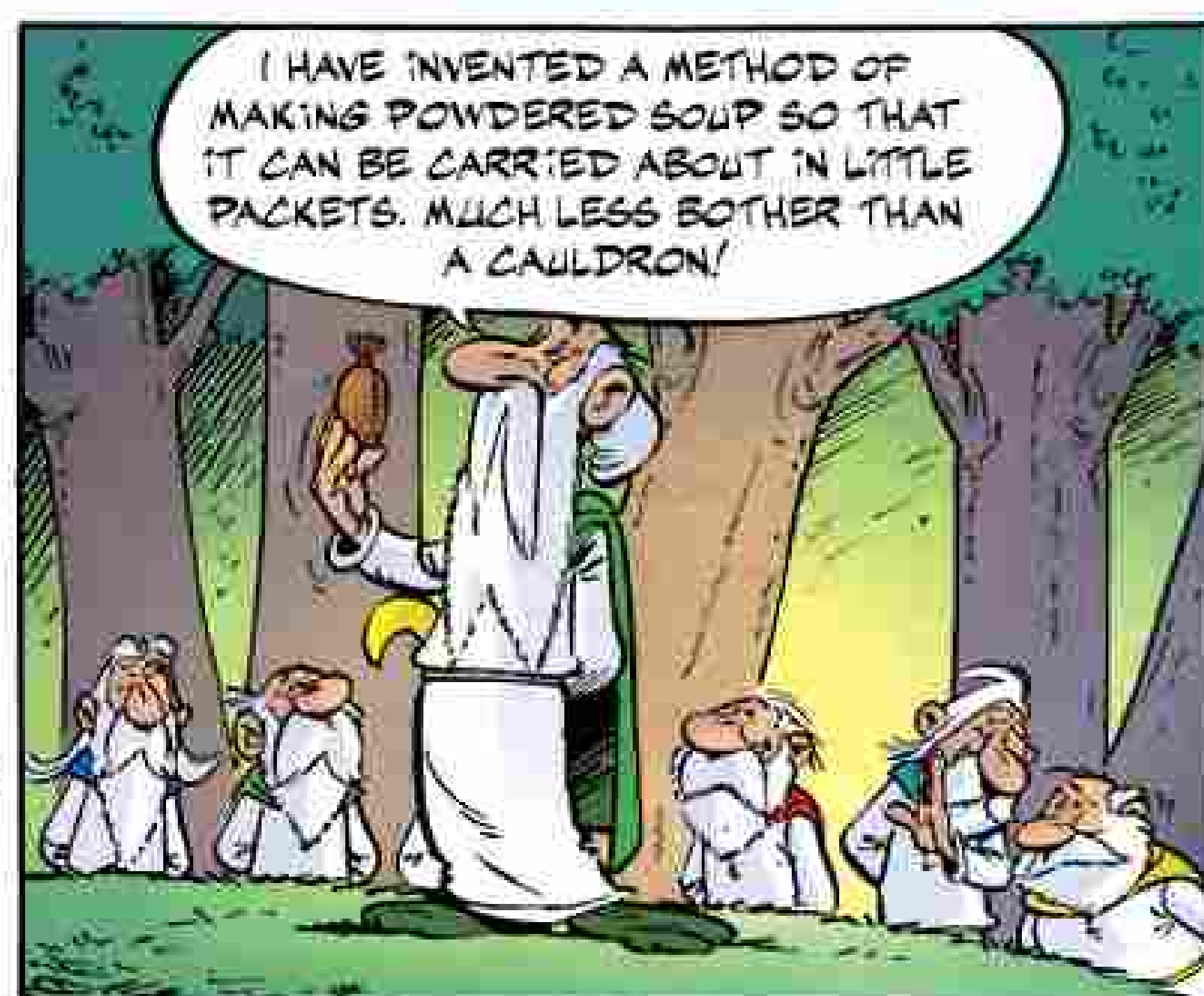










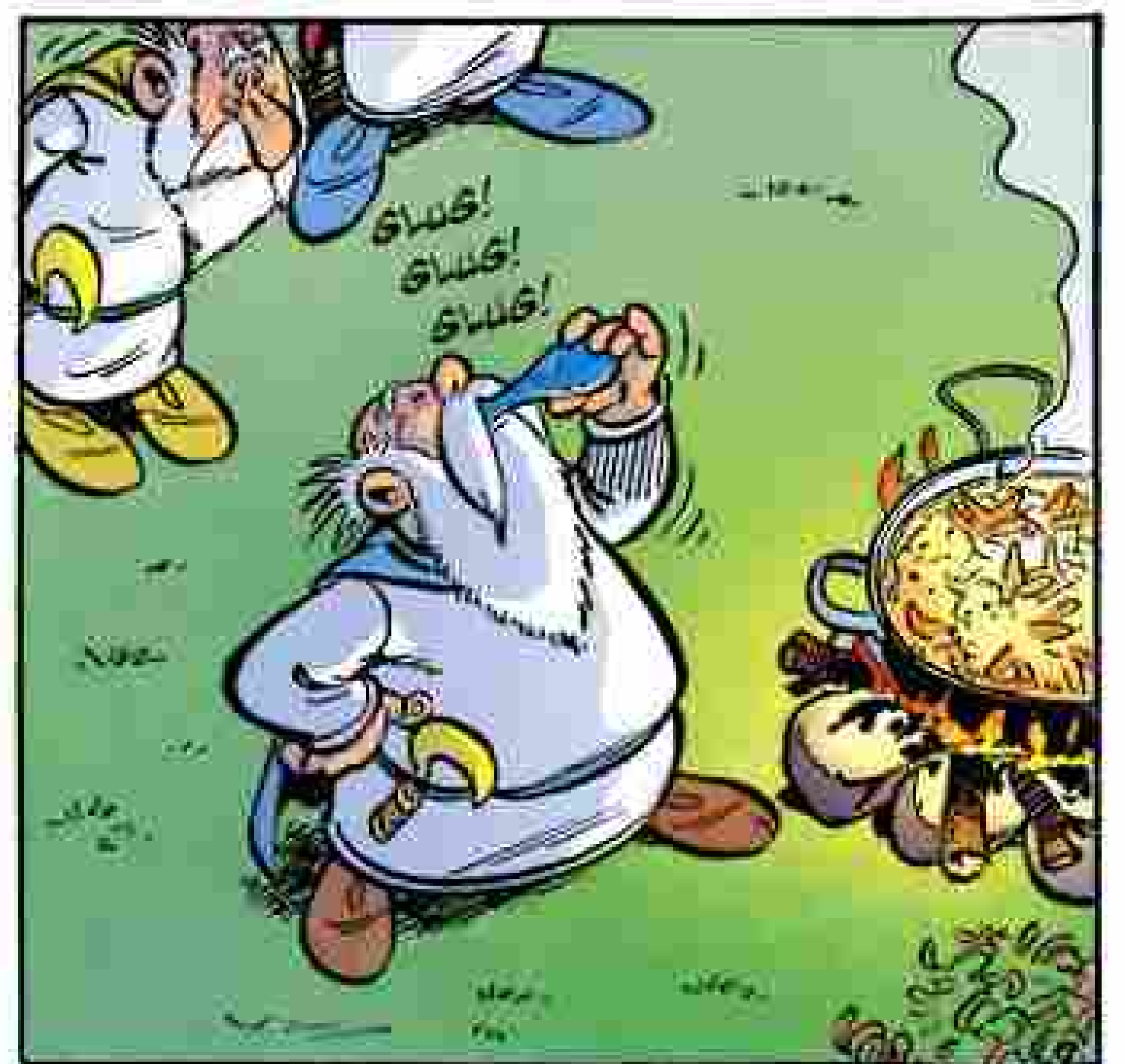




AND NOW WE COME TO THE NEXT CANDIDATE, VALLUADDETAX!



I HAVE BREWED A POTION WHICH MAKES YOU IMMUNE TO PAIN! JUST WATCH THIS...



SWUG!
SWUG!
SWUG!



...AND NOW I CAN TAKE CHIPS OUT OF BOILING OIL WITH MY BARE HANDS!!

VERY PRACTICAL!

GREAT.



AND NOW OUR LAST CANDIDATE... DRUID GETAFIX!

I SHOULD LIKE TO DEMONSTRATE MY POTION WHICH GIVES A MAN SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH!



I NEED THE HELP OF A FEEBLE DRUID!

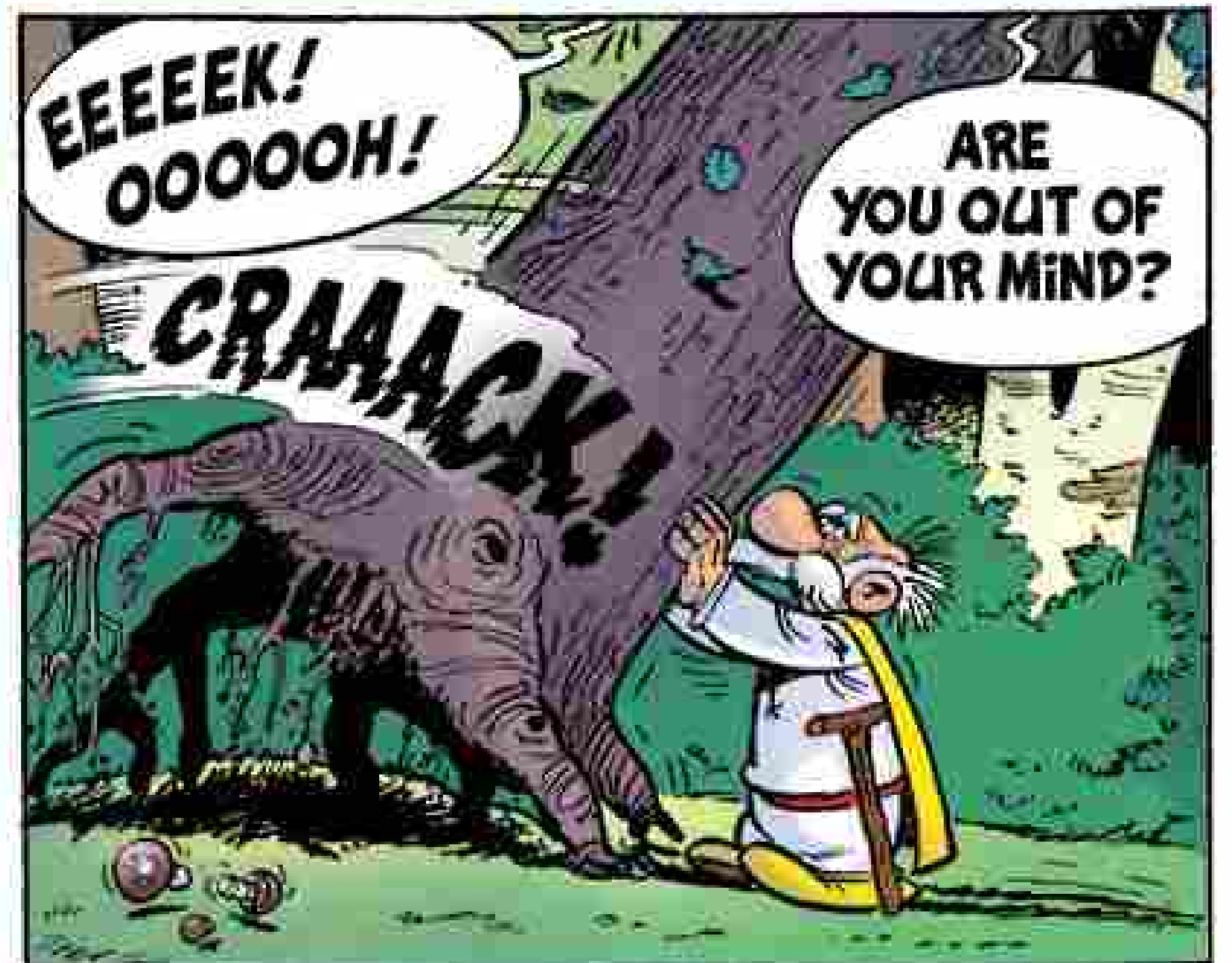
I'M A FEEBLE DRUID...



DRINK THIS, AND THEN GO AND UPROOT AN OAK TREE, FEEBLE DRUID!



THIS ONE?



EEEEEEK!
OOOOOH!

CRAACK!

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?



HEY, CAN'T YOU LET US CUT MISTLETOE IN PEACE?!!

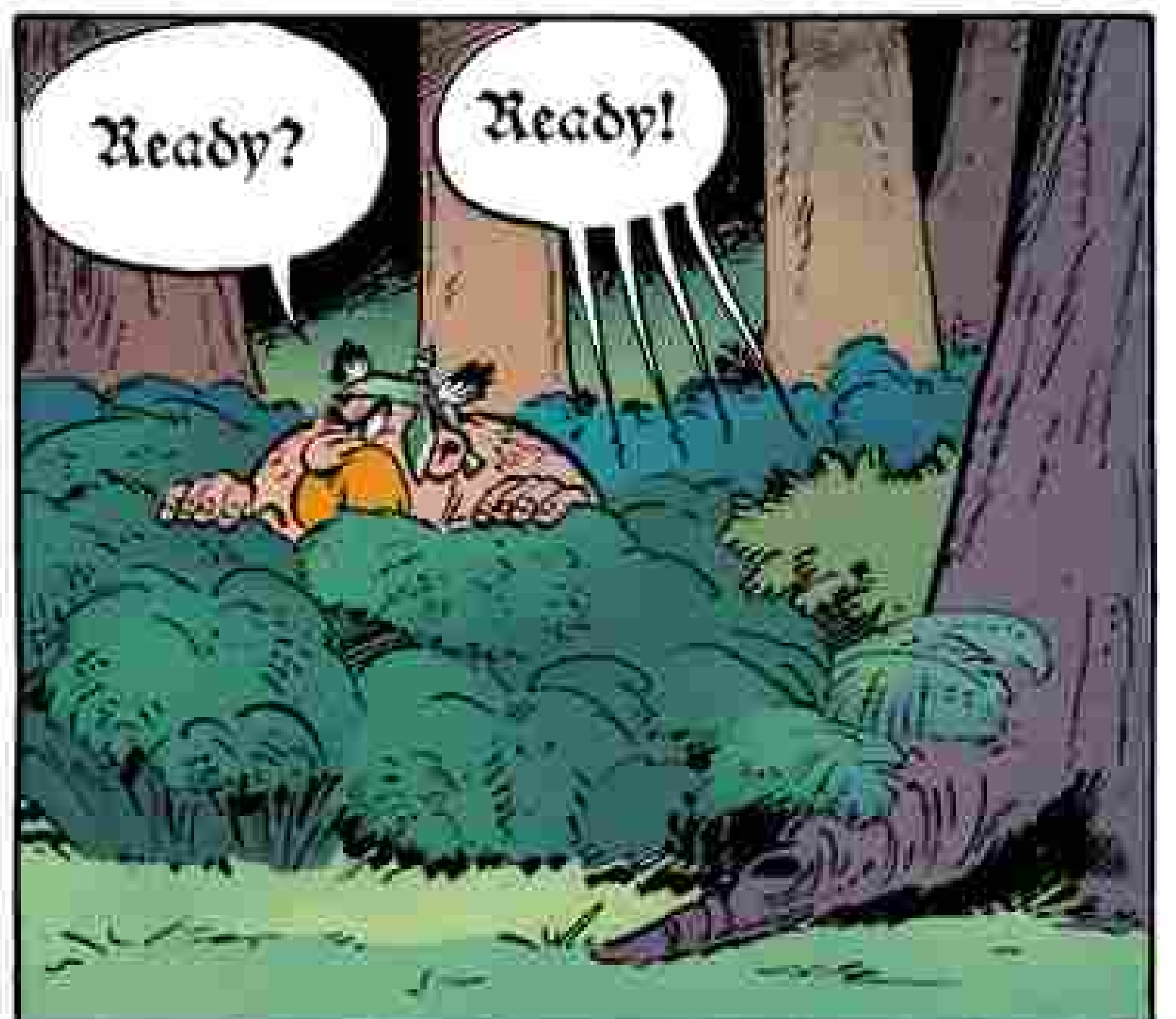
I HAD ALREADY HEARD ABOUT YOUR POTION, GETAFIX, BUT IT'S EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN I'D BEEN LED TO BELIEVE!

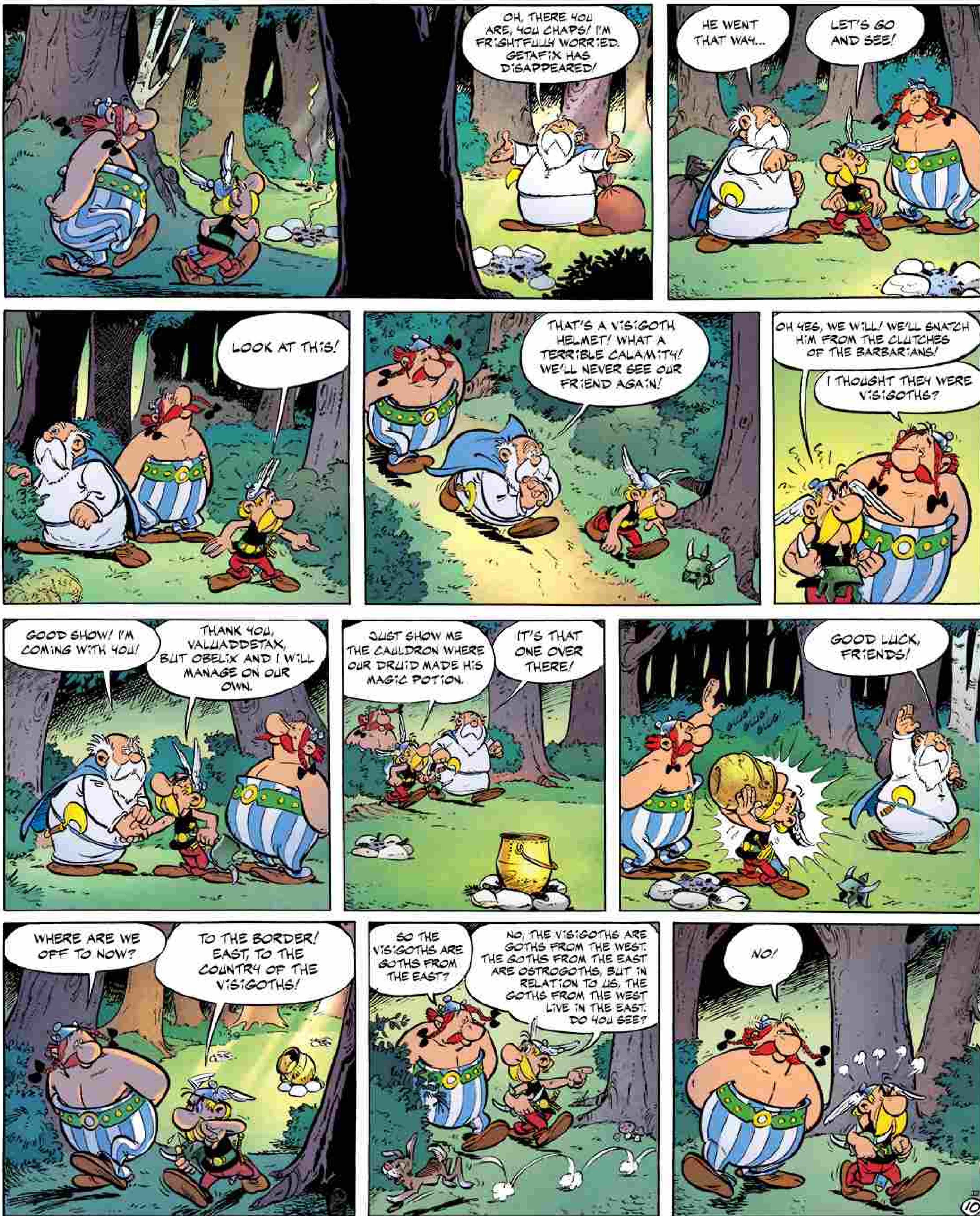
CAN I GO NOW?

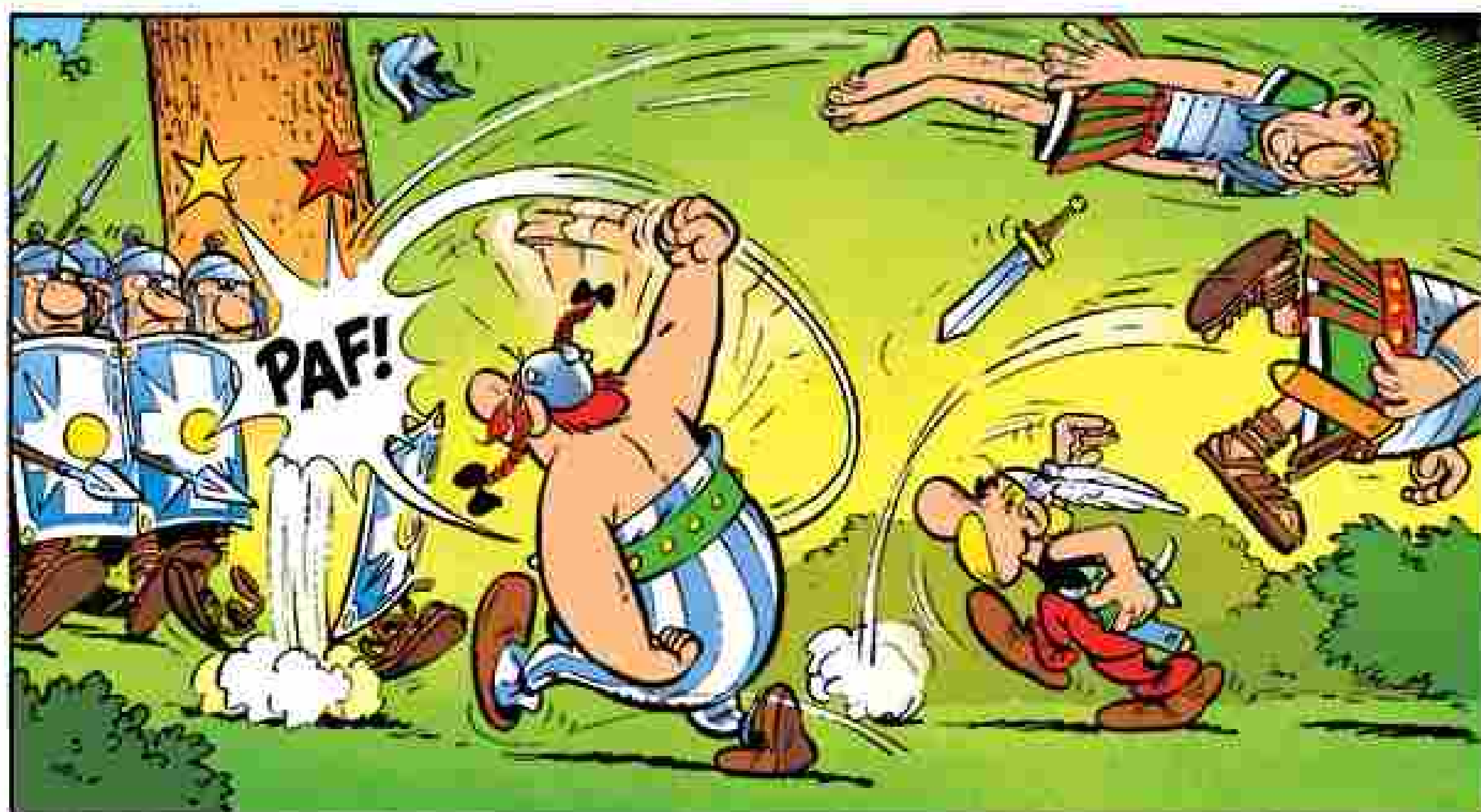
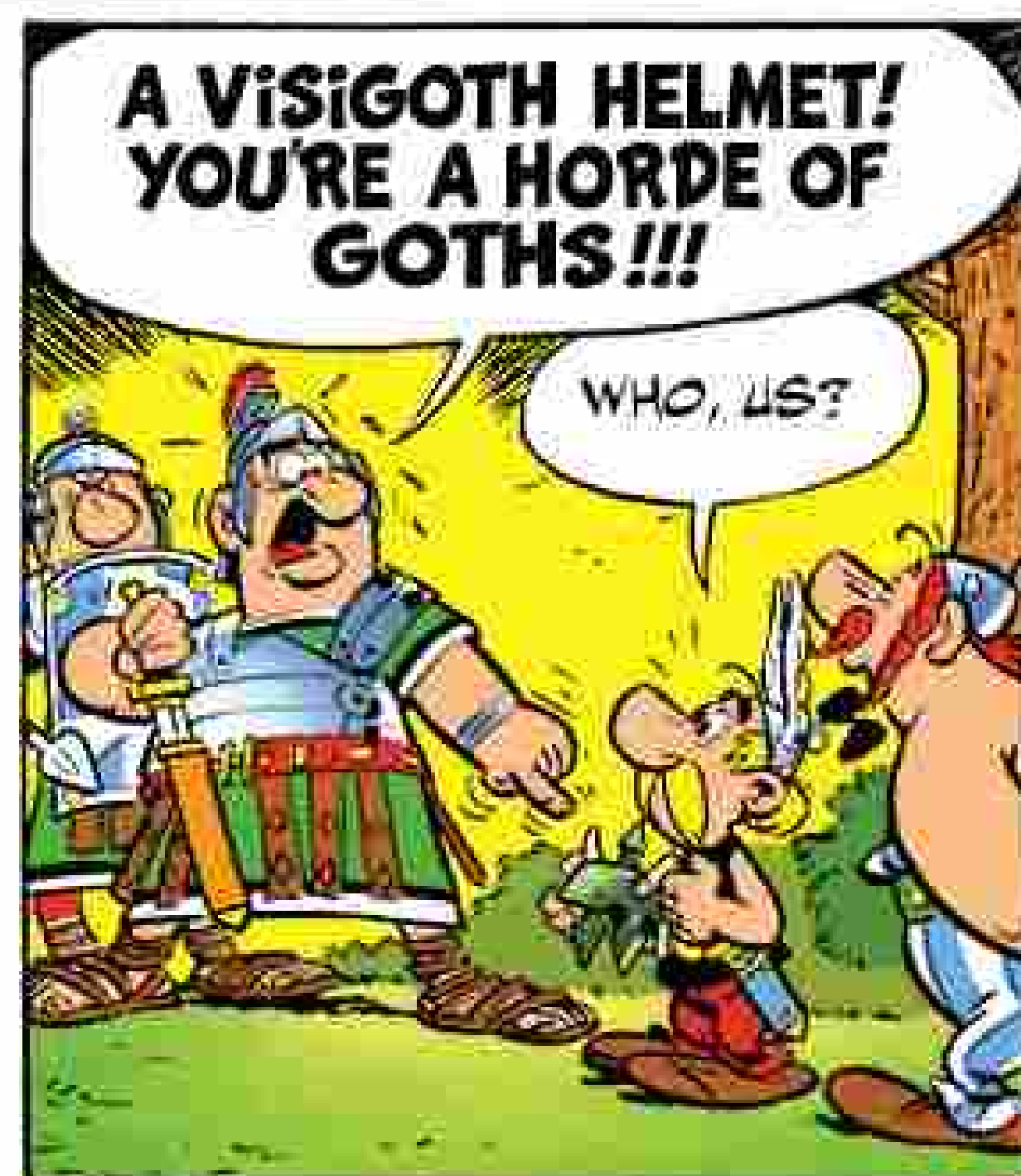
HURRAH! HE'S THE WINNER!

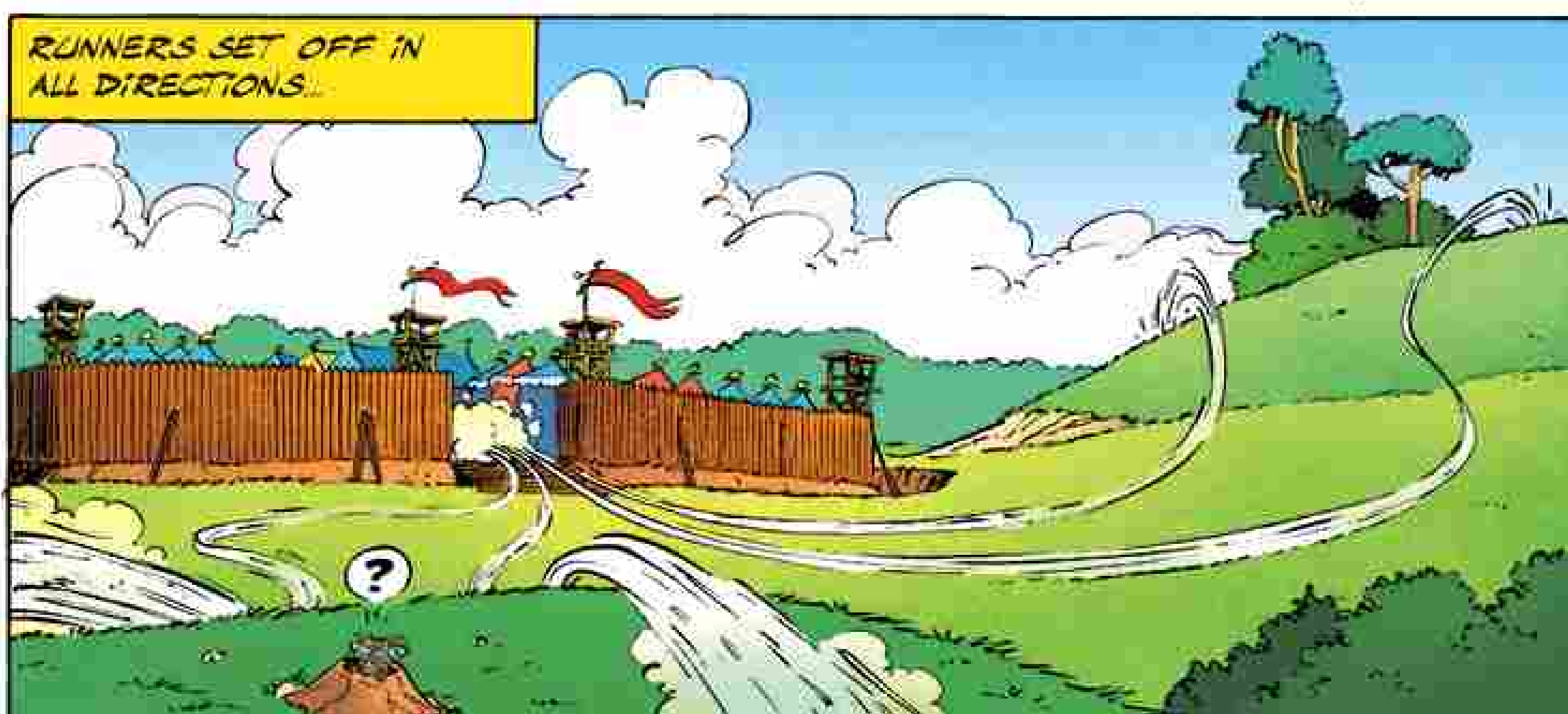


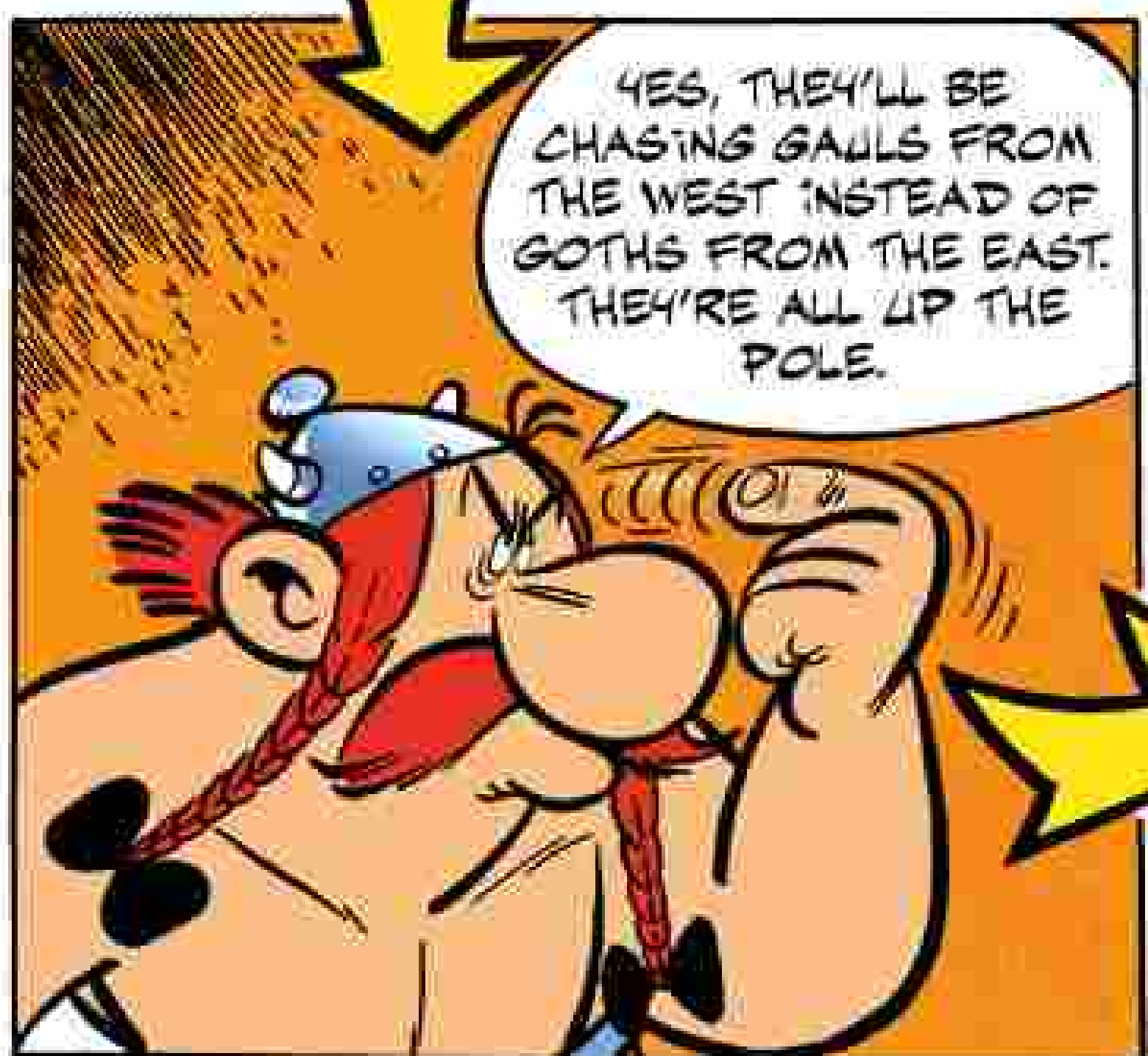
That's the one we want!

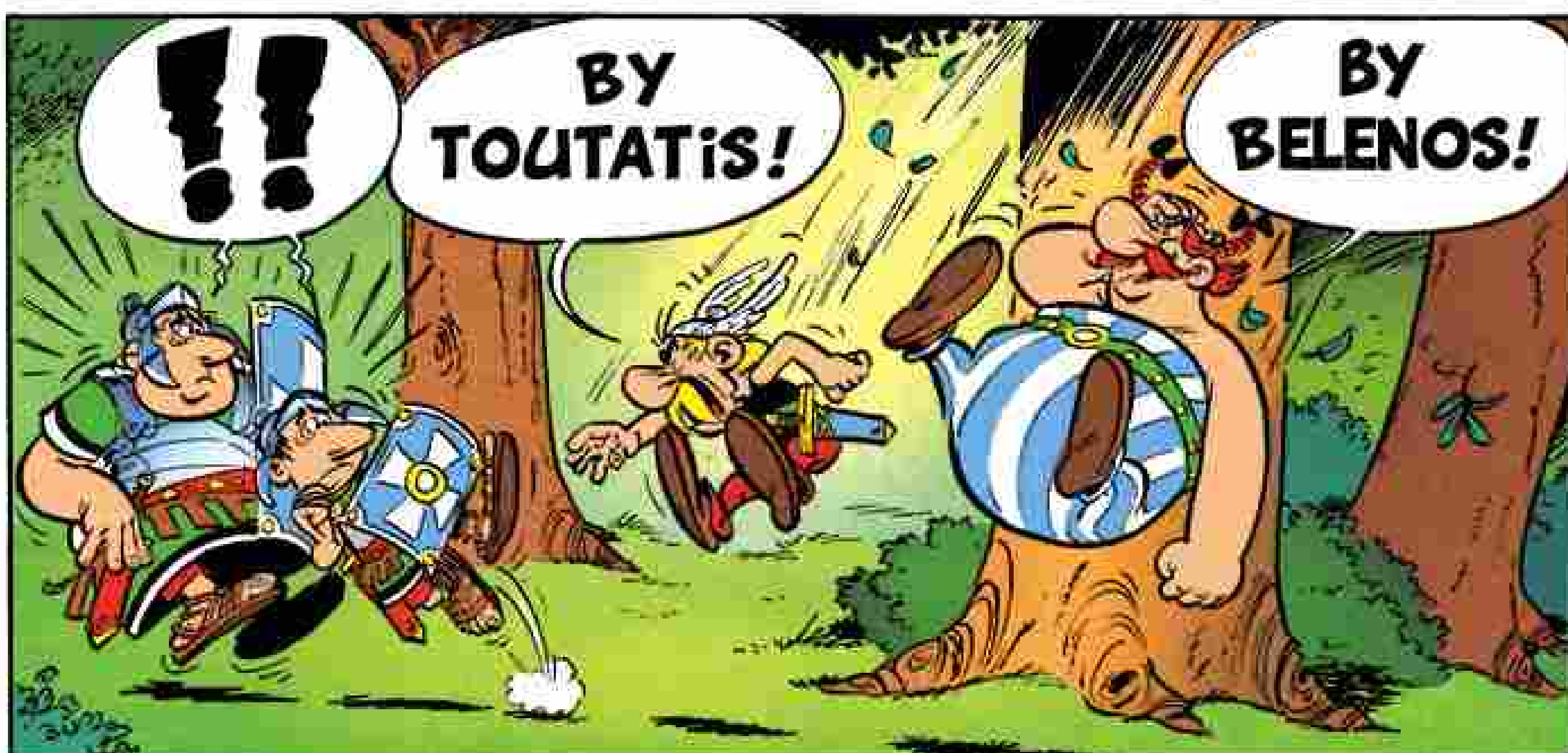
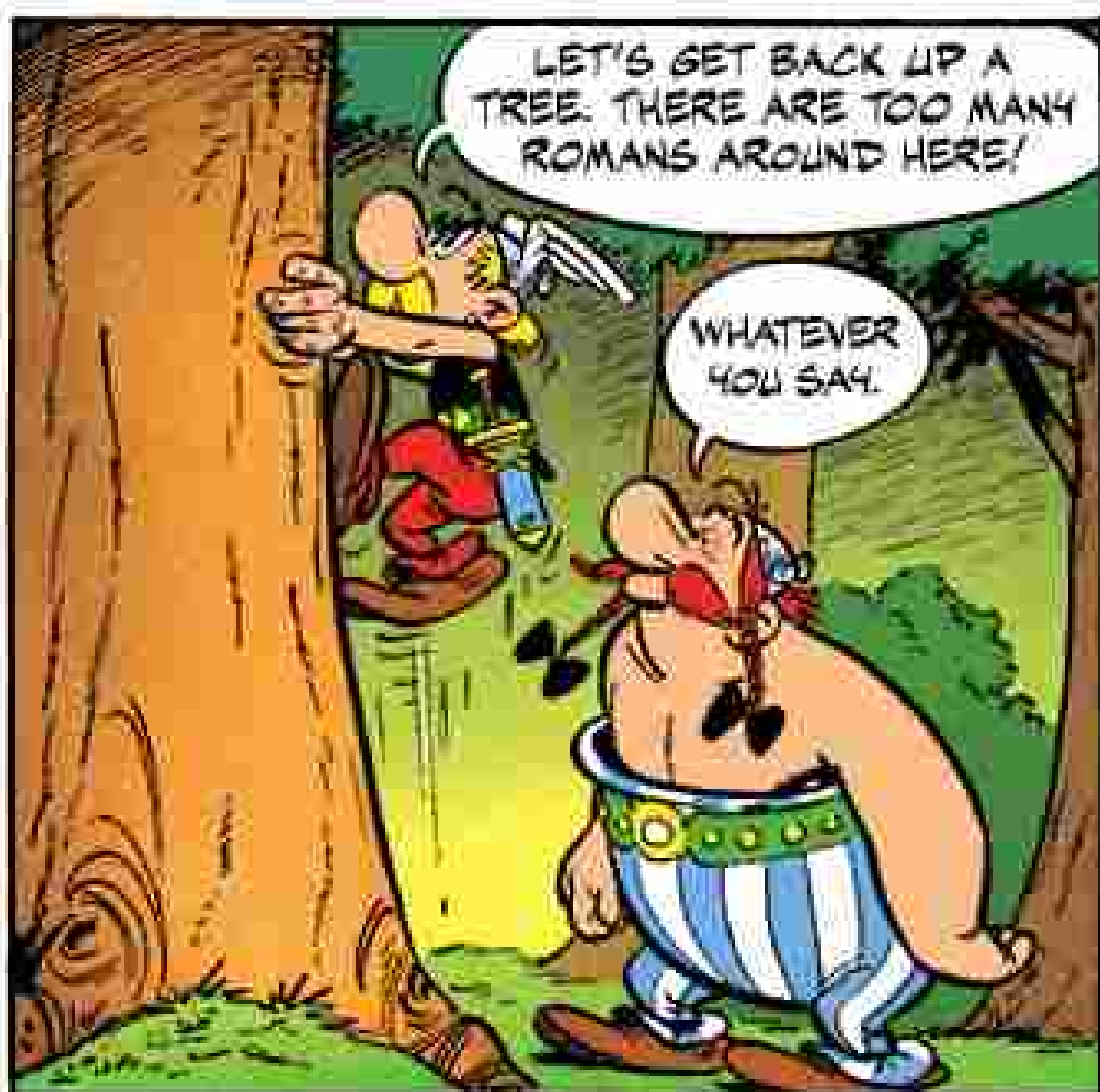






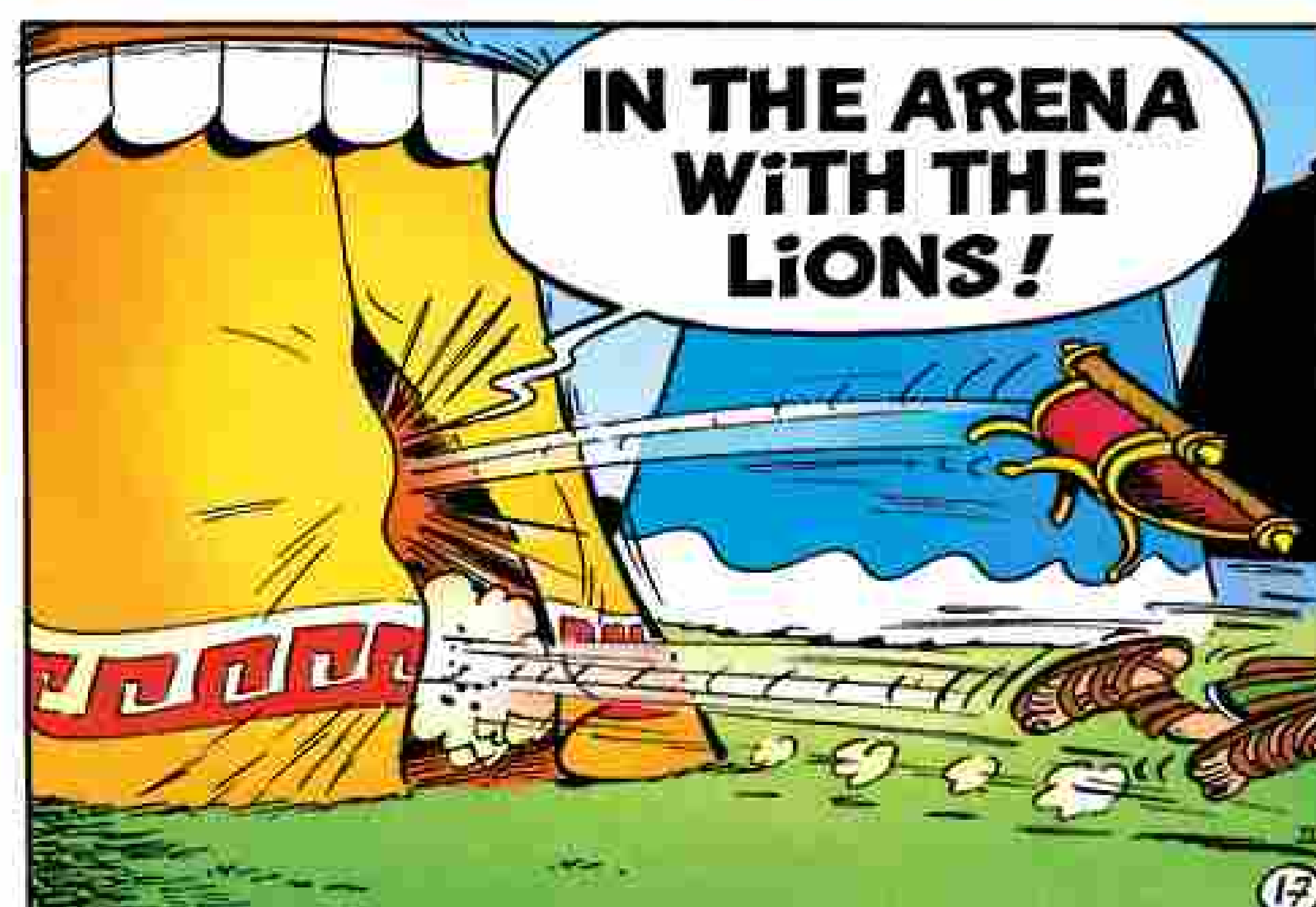
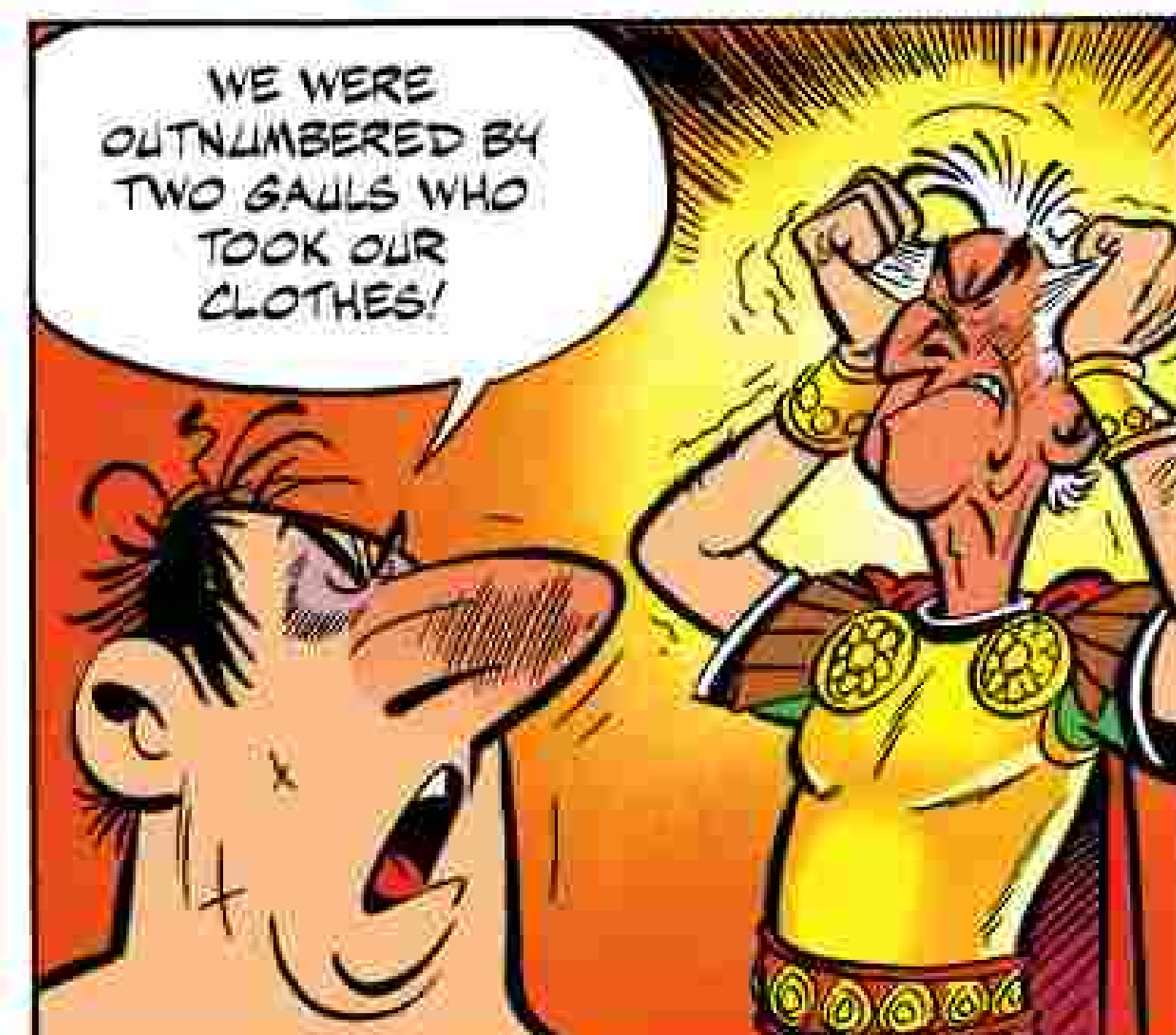












AS SOON AS THE ROMANS KNOW THAT THE GOTHs THEY ARE LOOKING FOR ARE DISGUISED AS ROMANS THERE IS COMPLETE CHAOS. THE ROMANS GO ABOUT CAPTURING ONE ANOTHER.

I'M TAKING YOU IN, GOTH!

YOU OFF YOUR HEAD OR SOMETHING?

I'M A ROMAN!
I'M A ROMAN!
I'M A ROMAN!

GOT YOU, YOU BARBARIAN!

THE UNHAPPY GENERAL CANTANKERUS IS NEARLY OUT OF HIS MIND.

THEY'RE ALL QUITE THICK, AND I'M THEIR LEADER! (SOB! SOB!)

BUT SOME PEOPLE ARE MAKING THE MOST OF THE SITUATION. FOR INSTANCE, ASTERIX AND OBELIX, WHO HAVE PUT THEIR OWN CLOTHES ON AGAIN.

AND THE GOTHs, THE ROOT OF ALL THE TROUBLE, WHO ARE PROCEEDING UNEVENTFULLY TOWARDS THEIR OWN COUNTRY OF GERMANIA.

Watch out! The frontier's ahead. We've got to cross it!

A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY WEIGHS ON THOSE WHO GUARD THE FRONTIER AGAINST FOREIGN INVADERS.

GAUL ROMAN EMPIRE

Germania

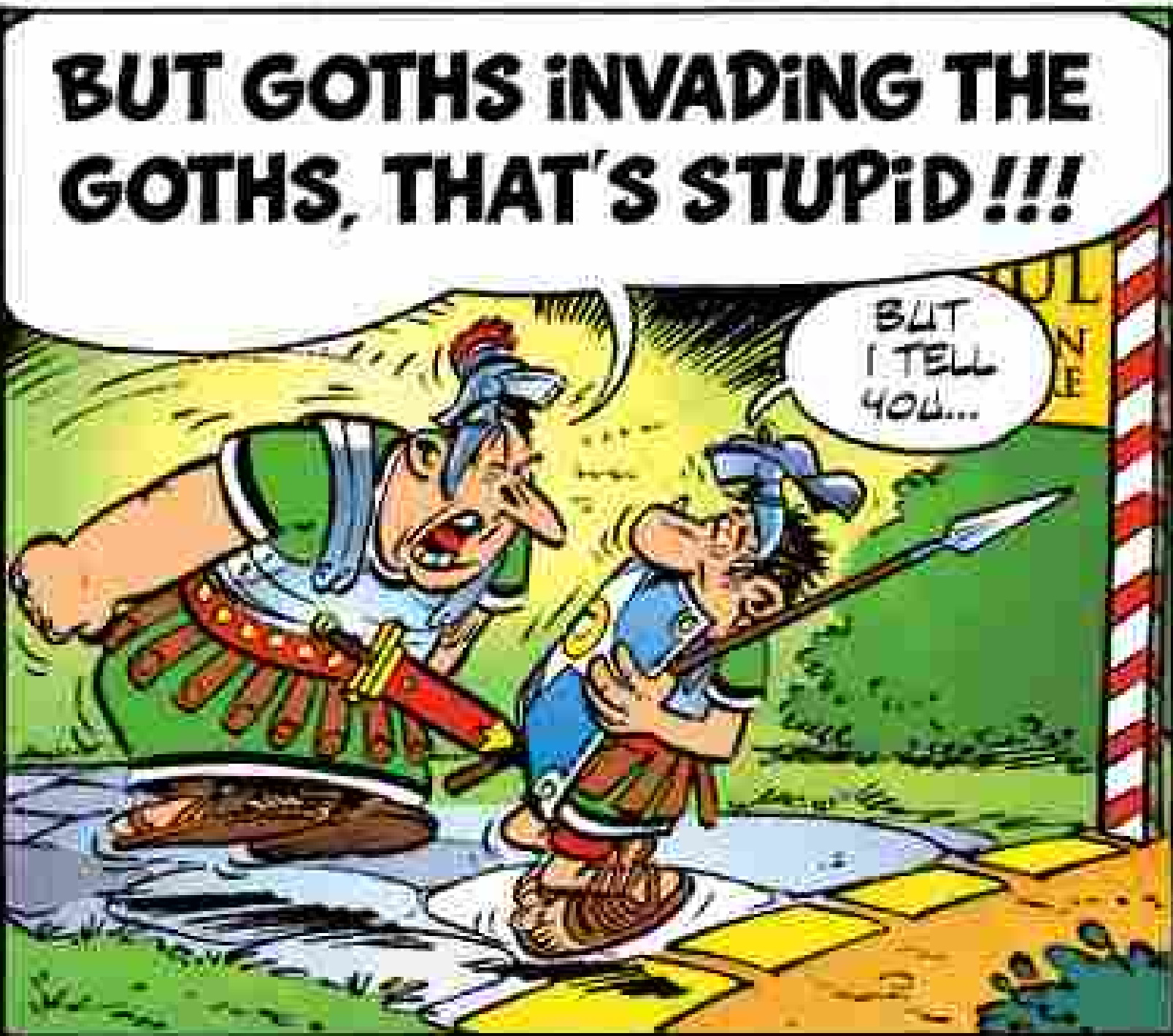
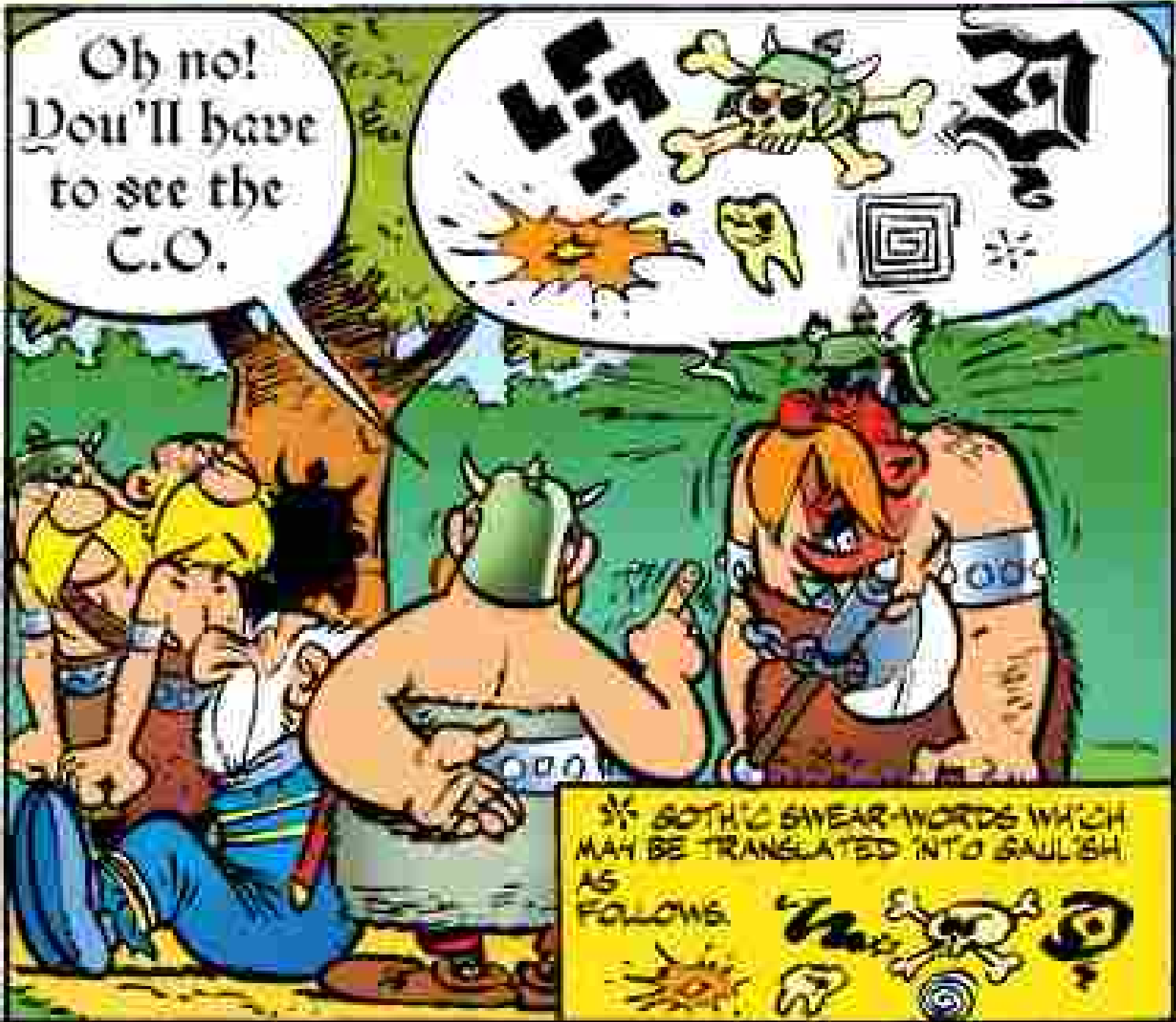
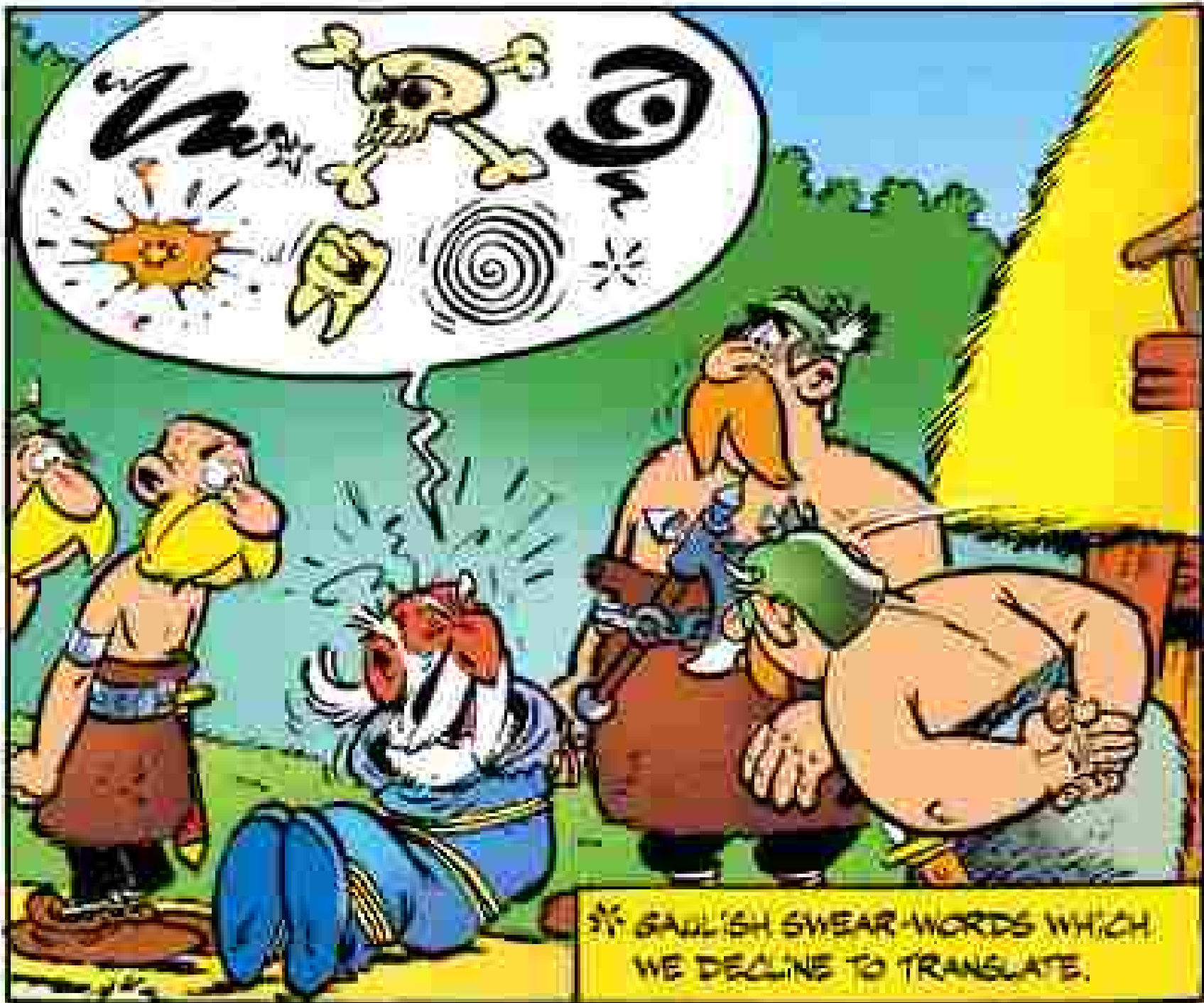
Hey!

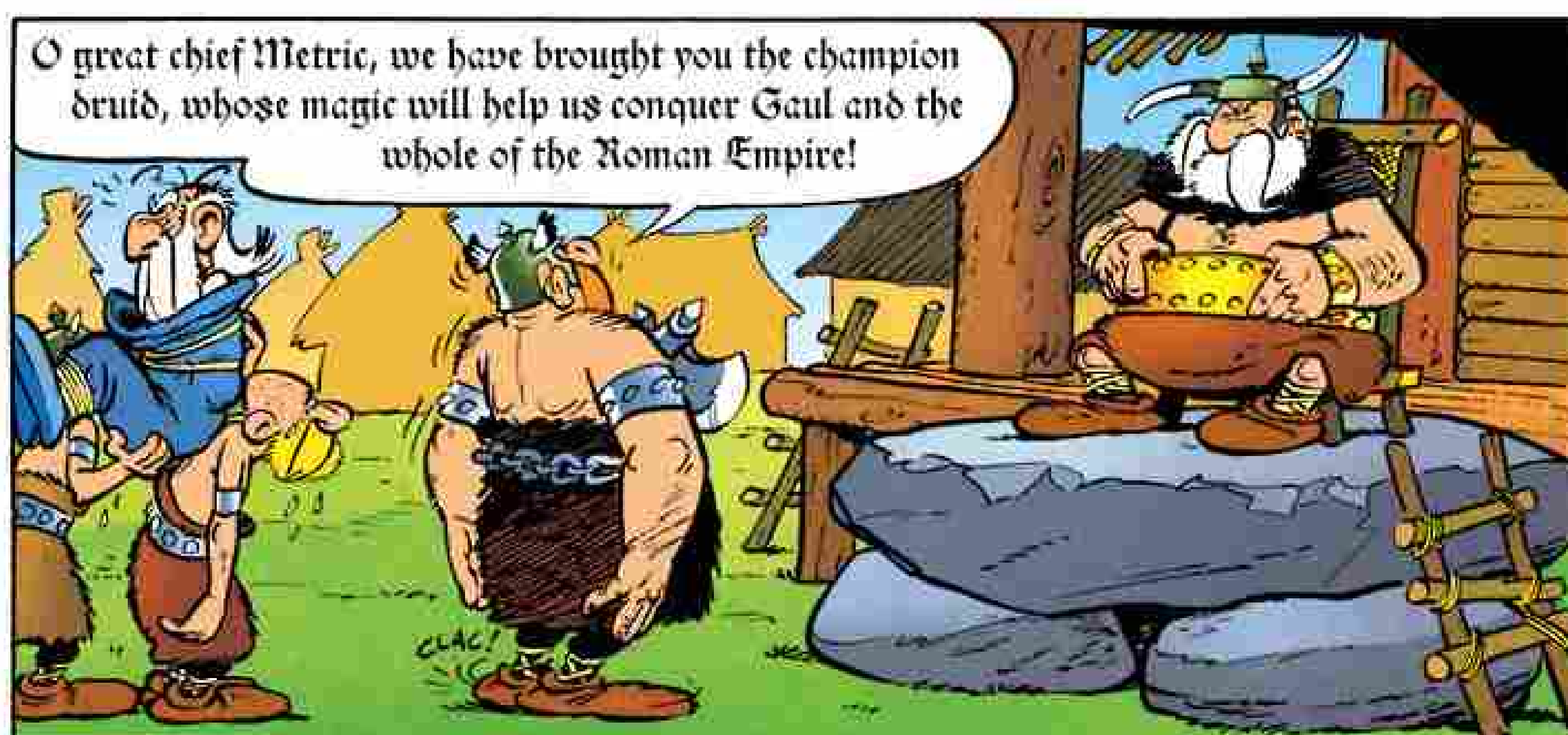
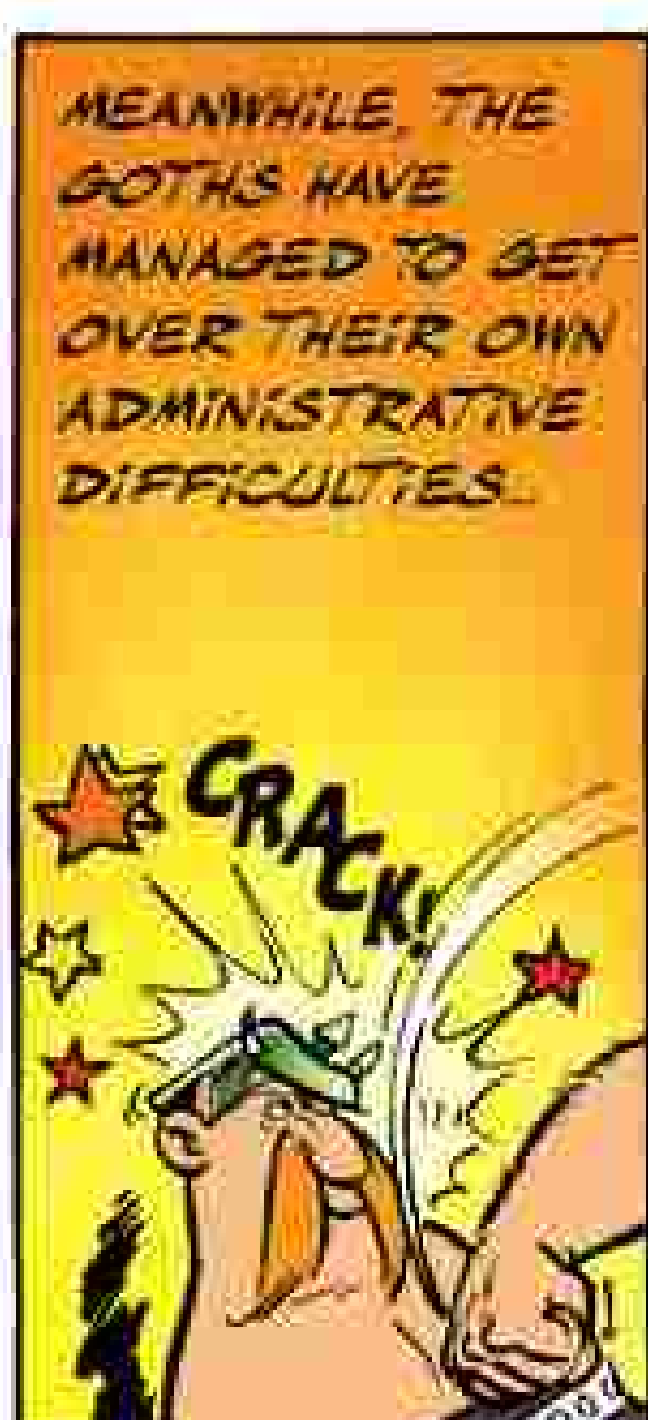
MMMM?

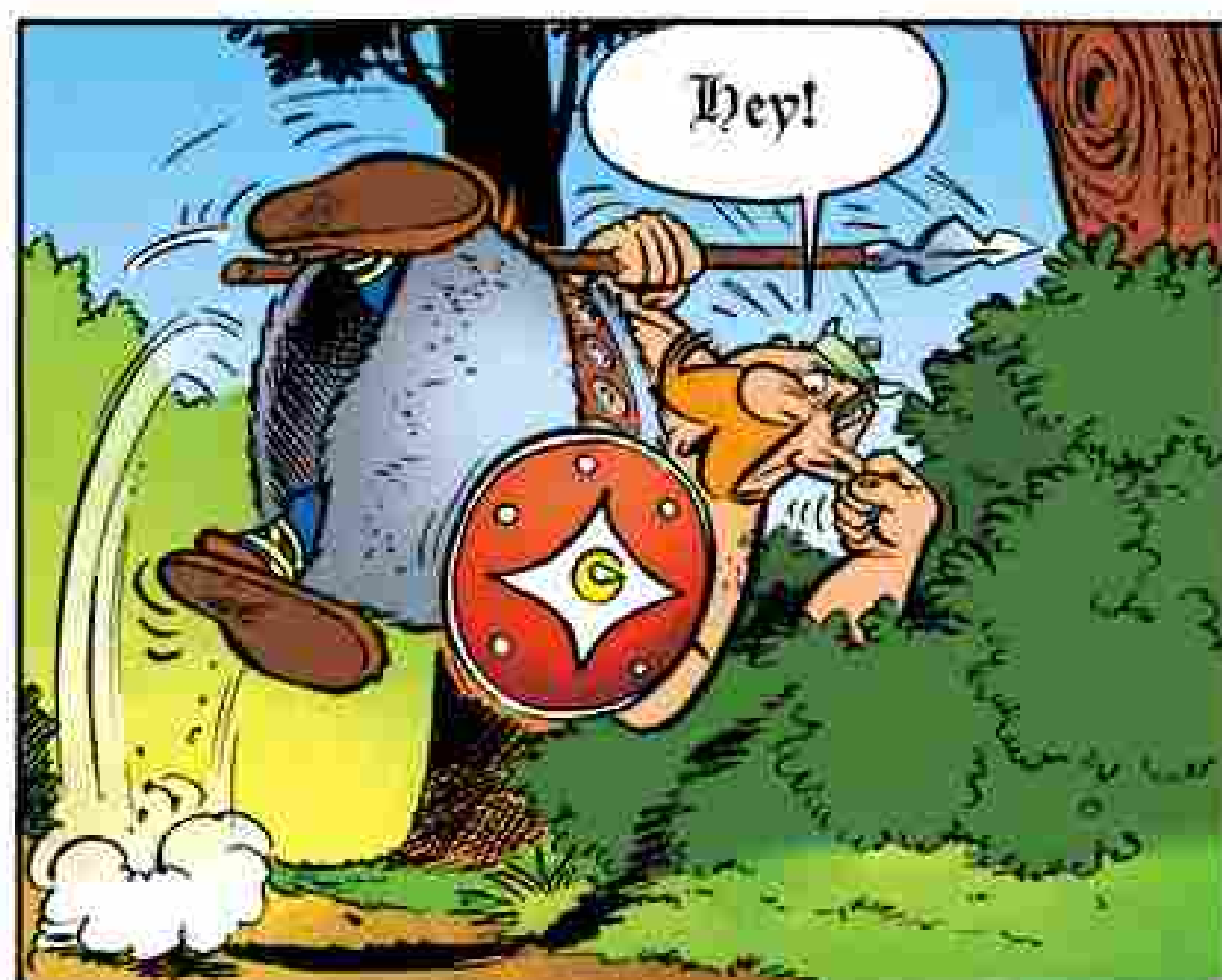
BONG!

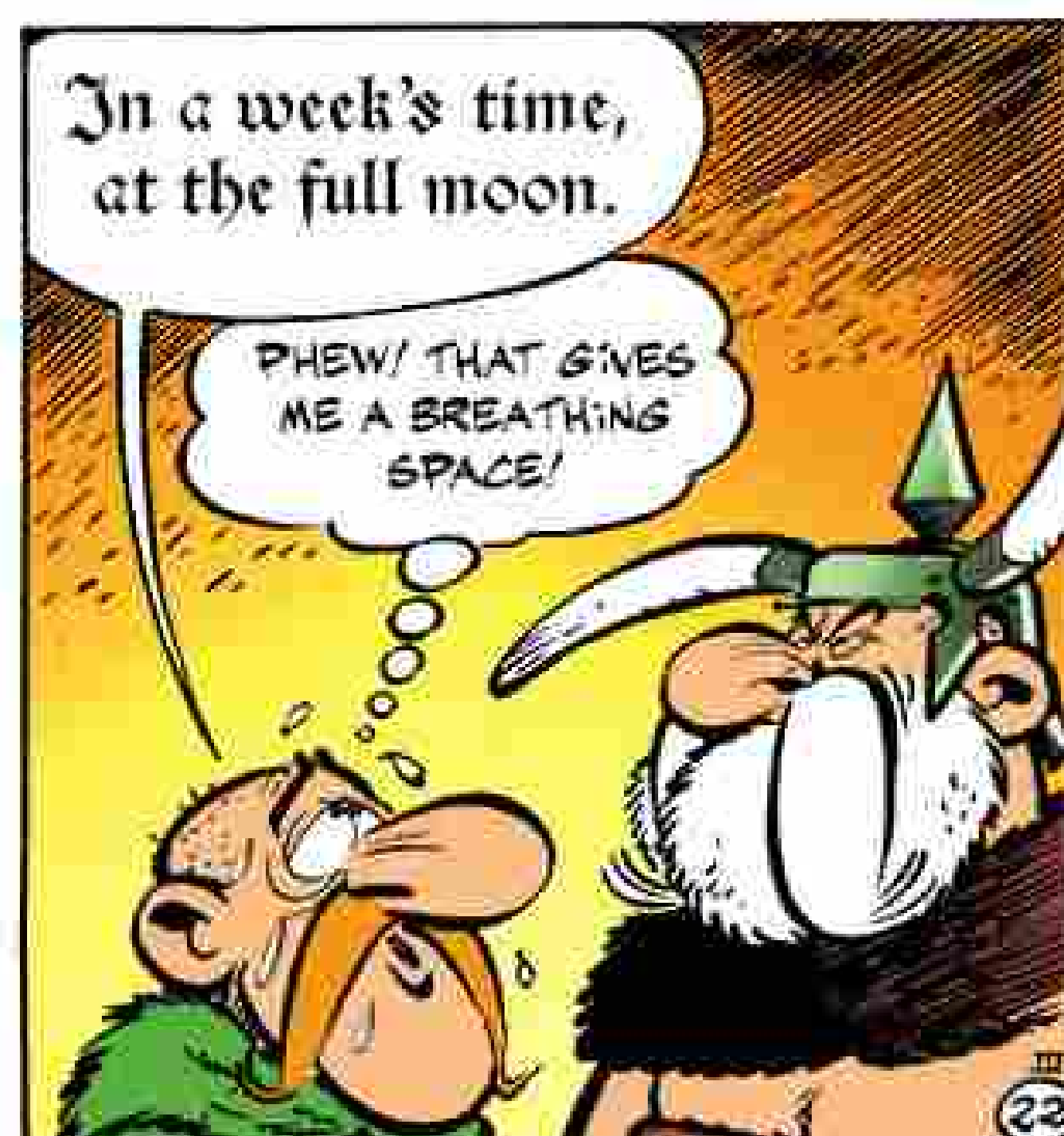
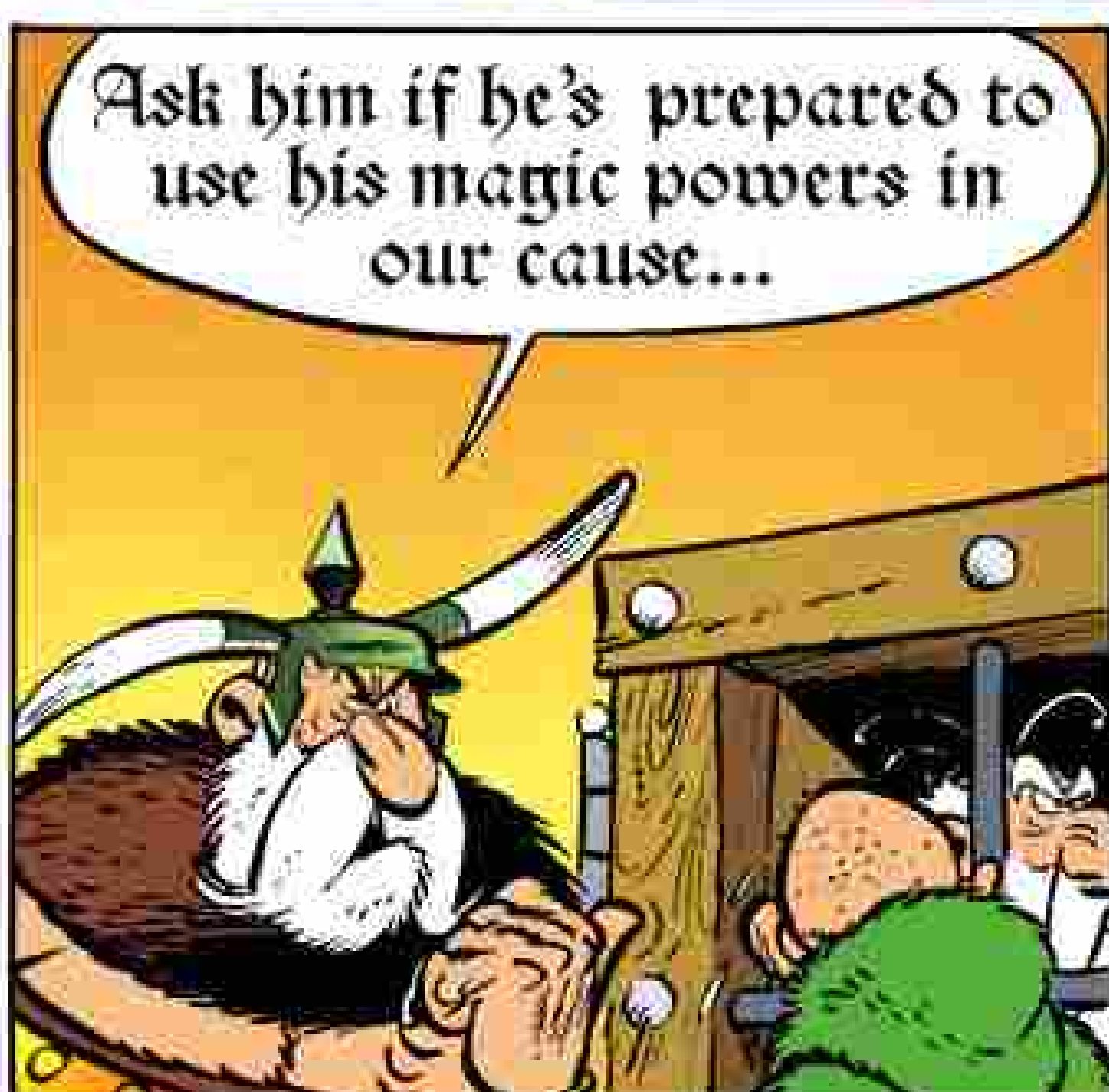
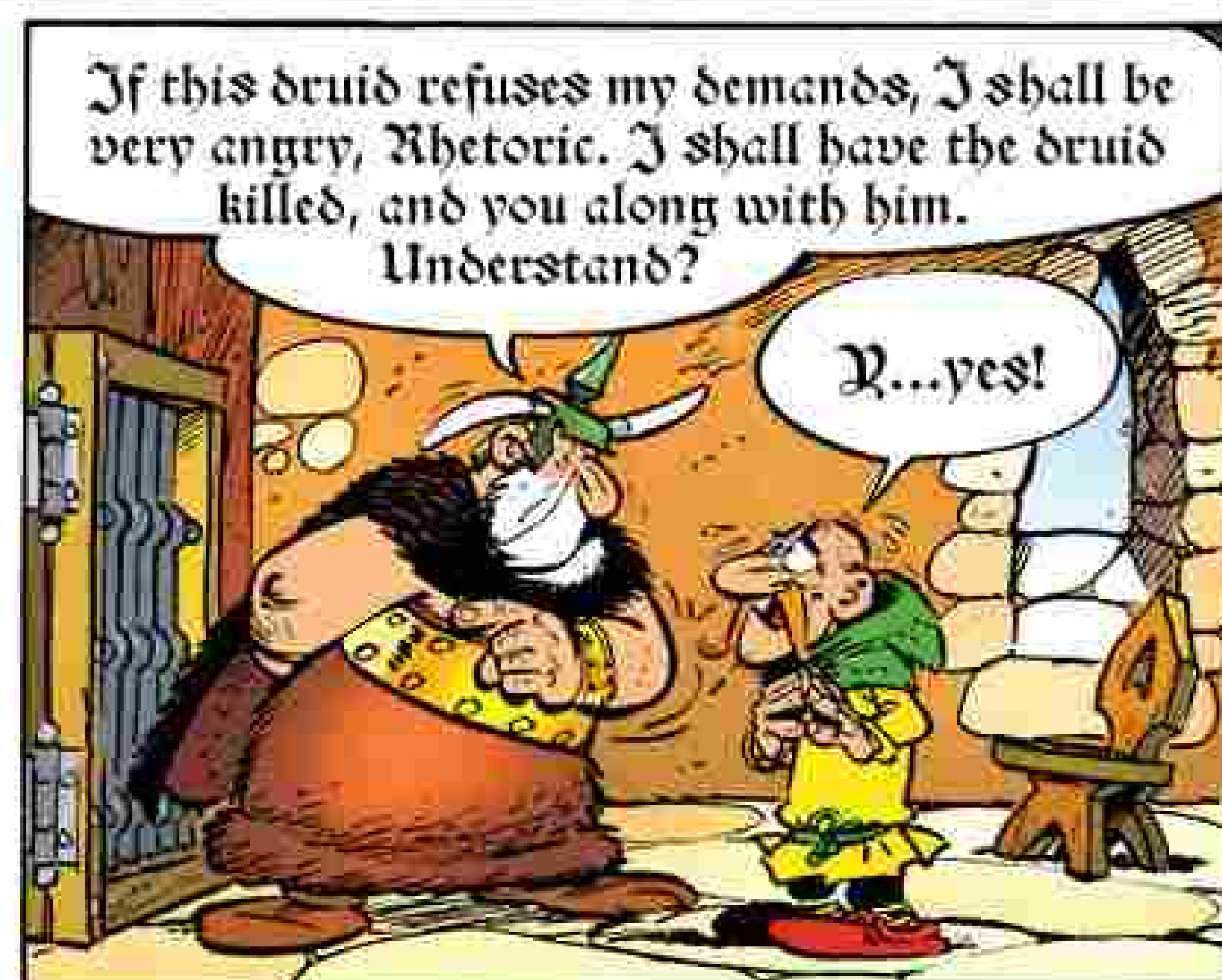
Victory is ours! We'll be given a hero's welcome by our own people!

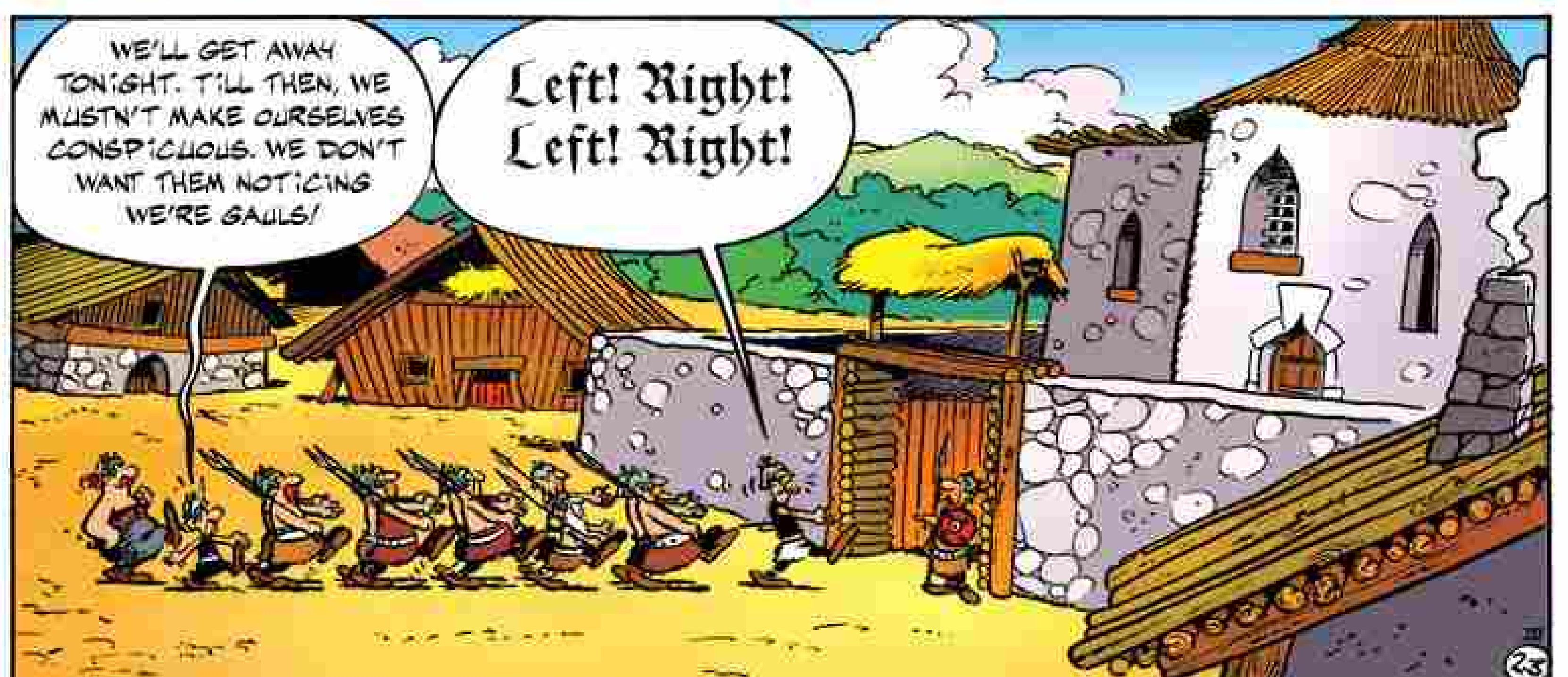
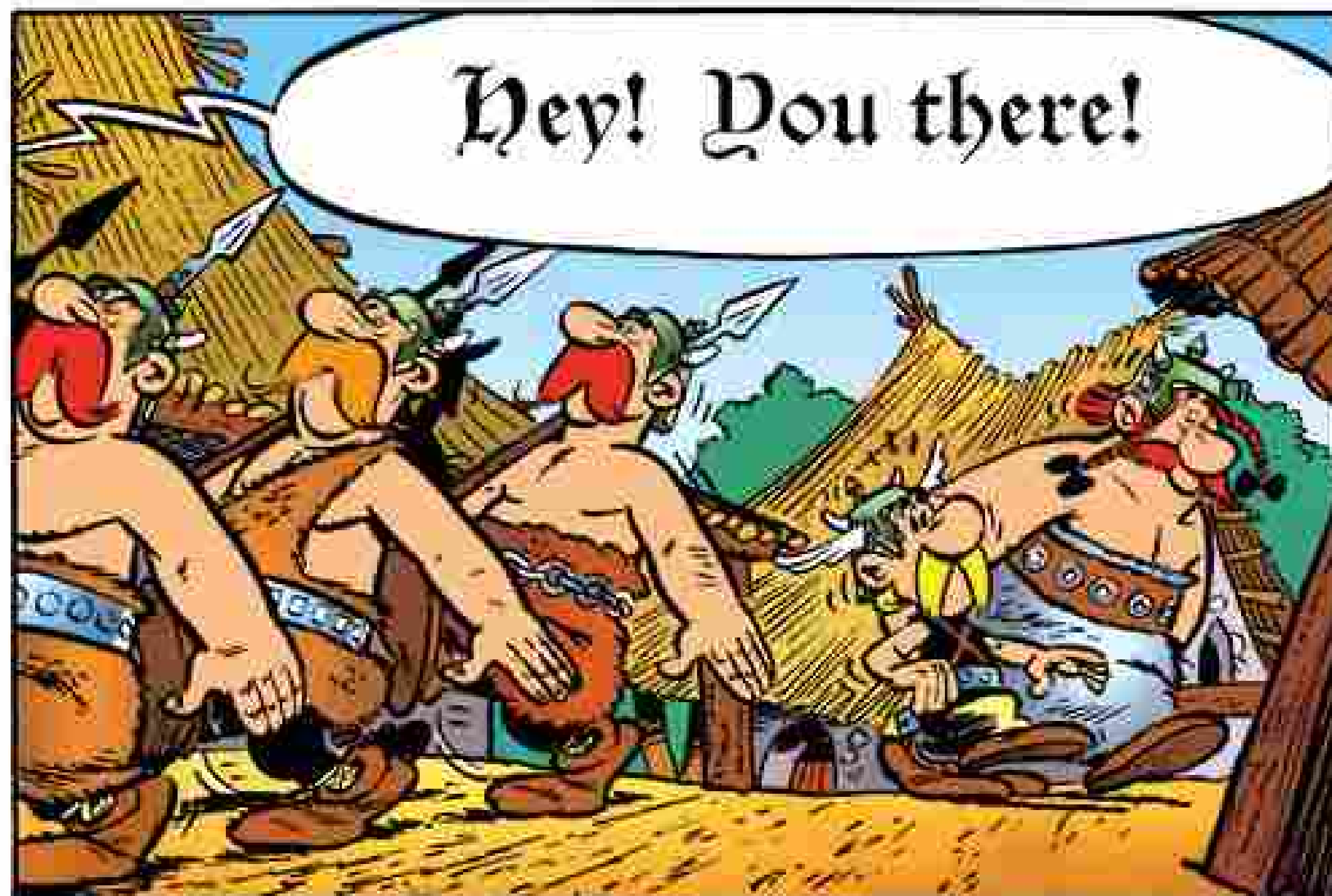
Anything to declare?

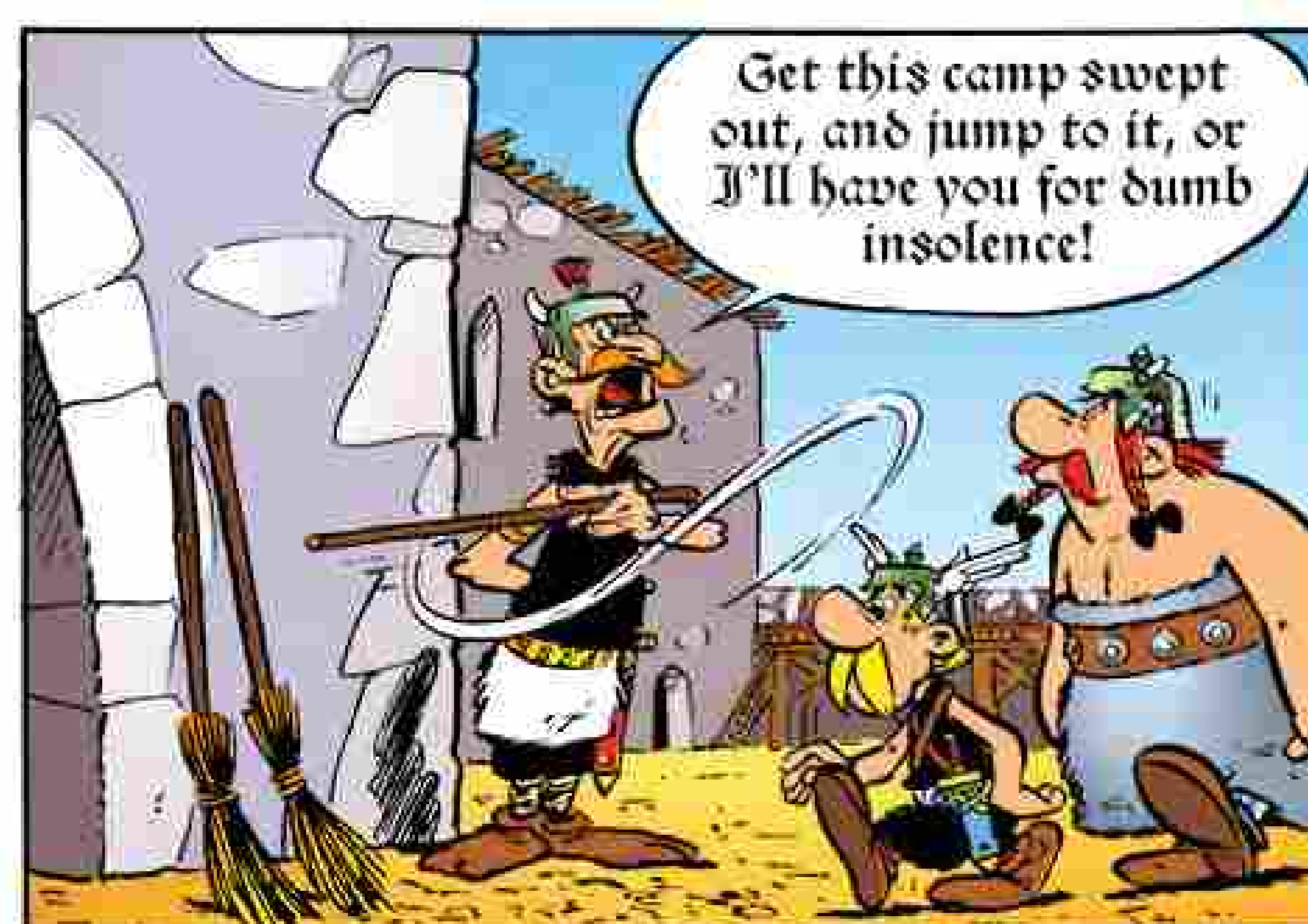


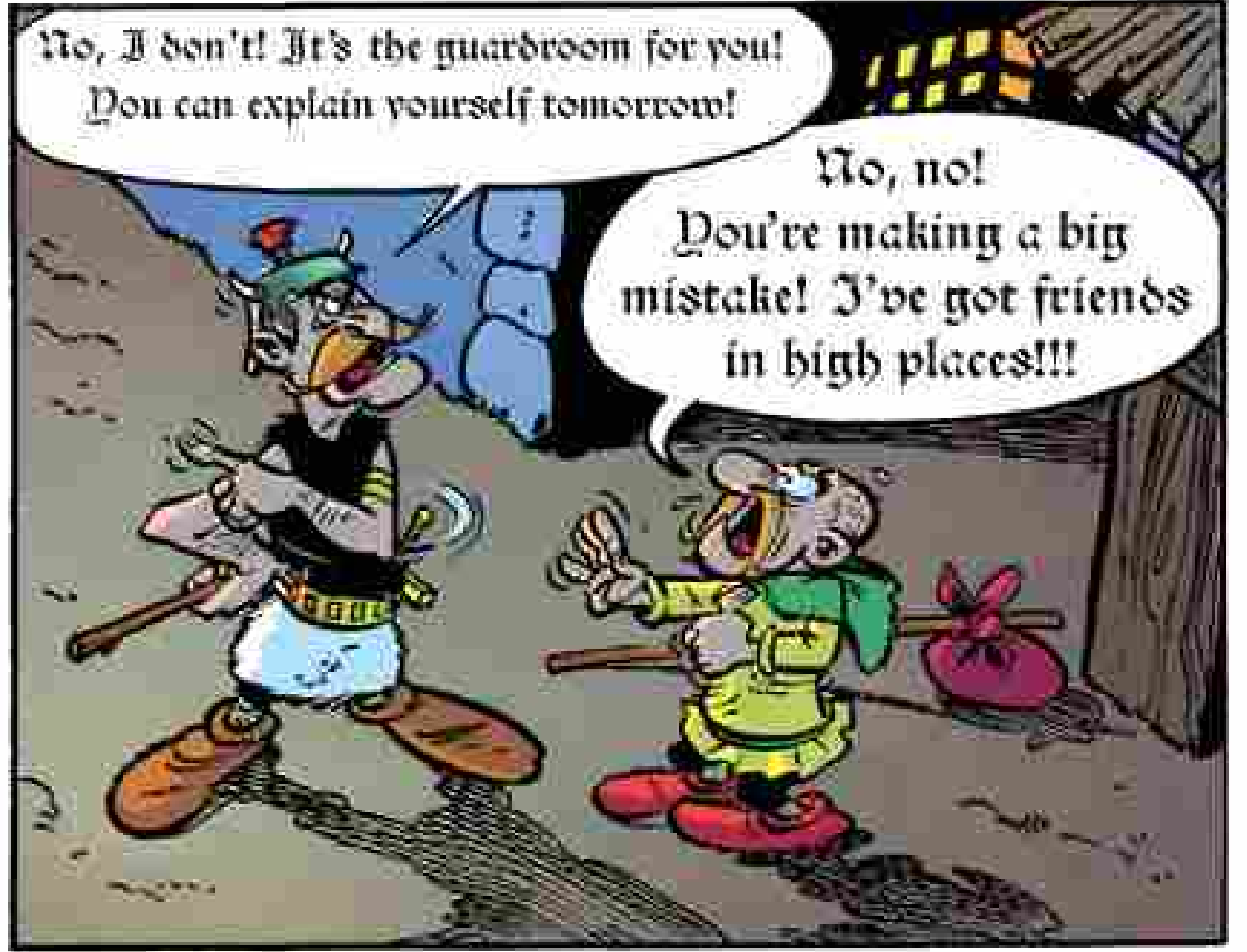
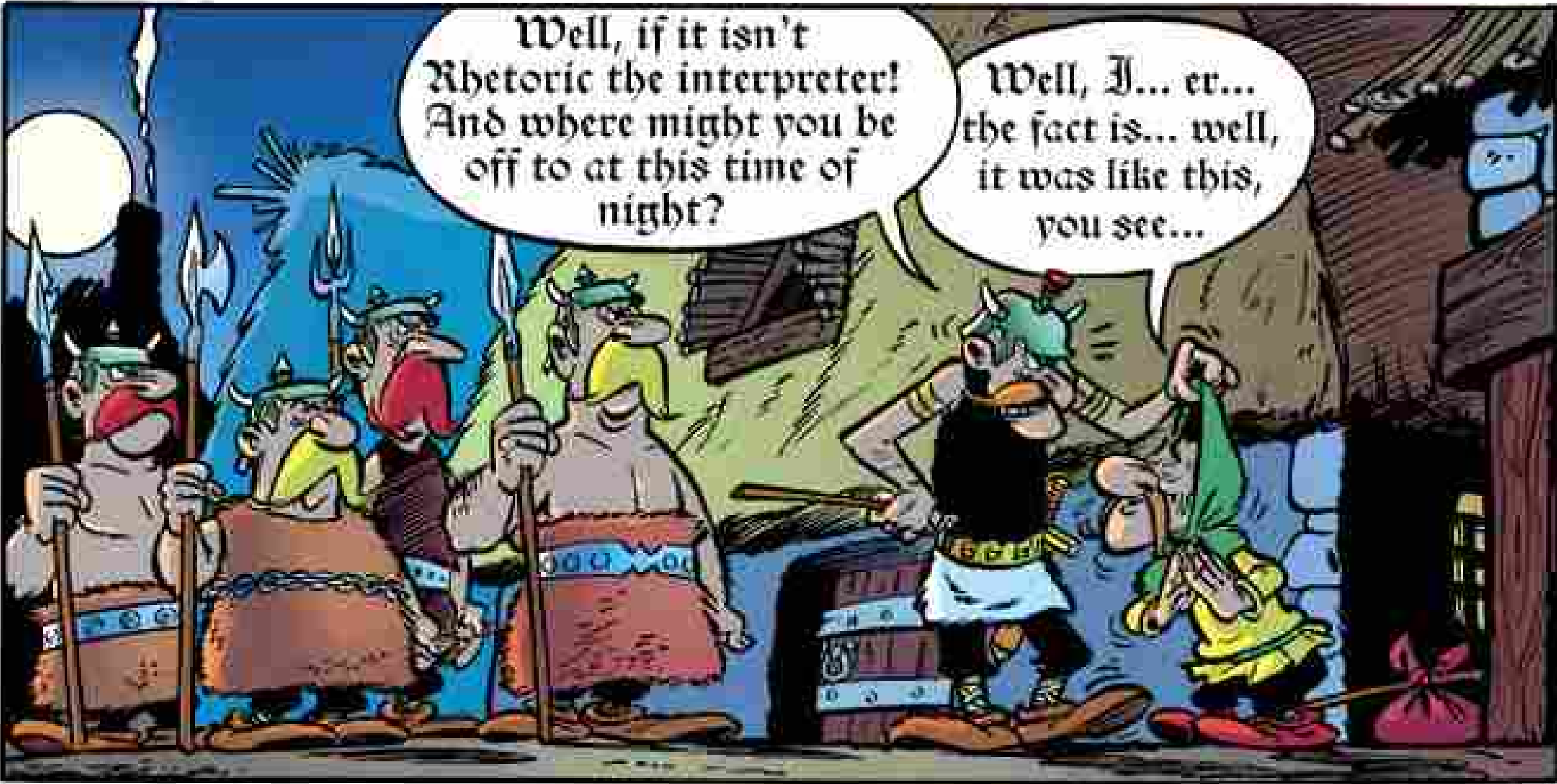




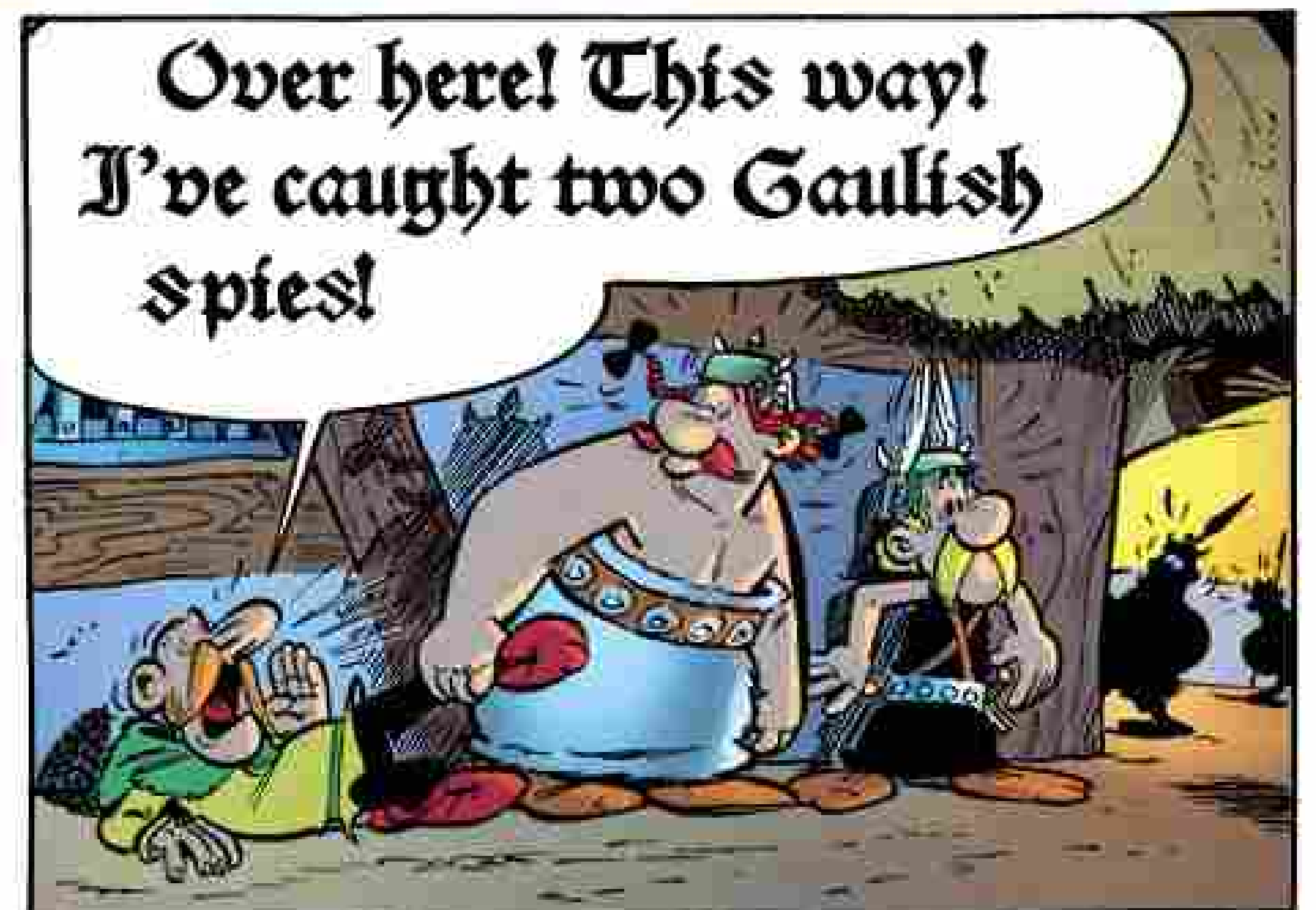
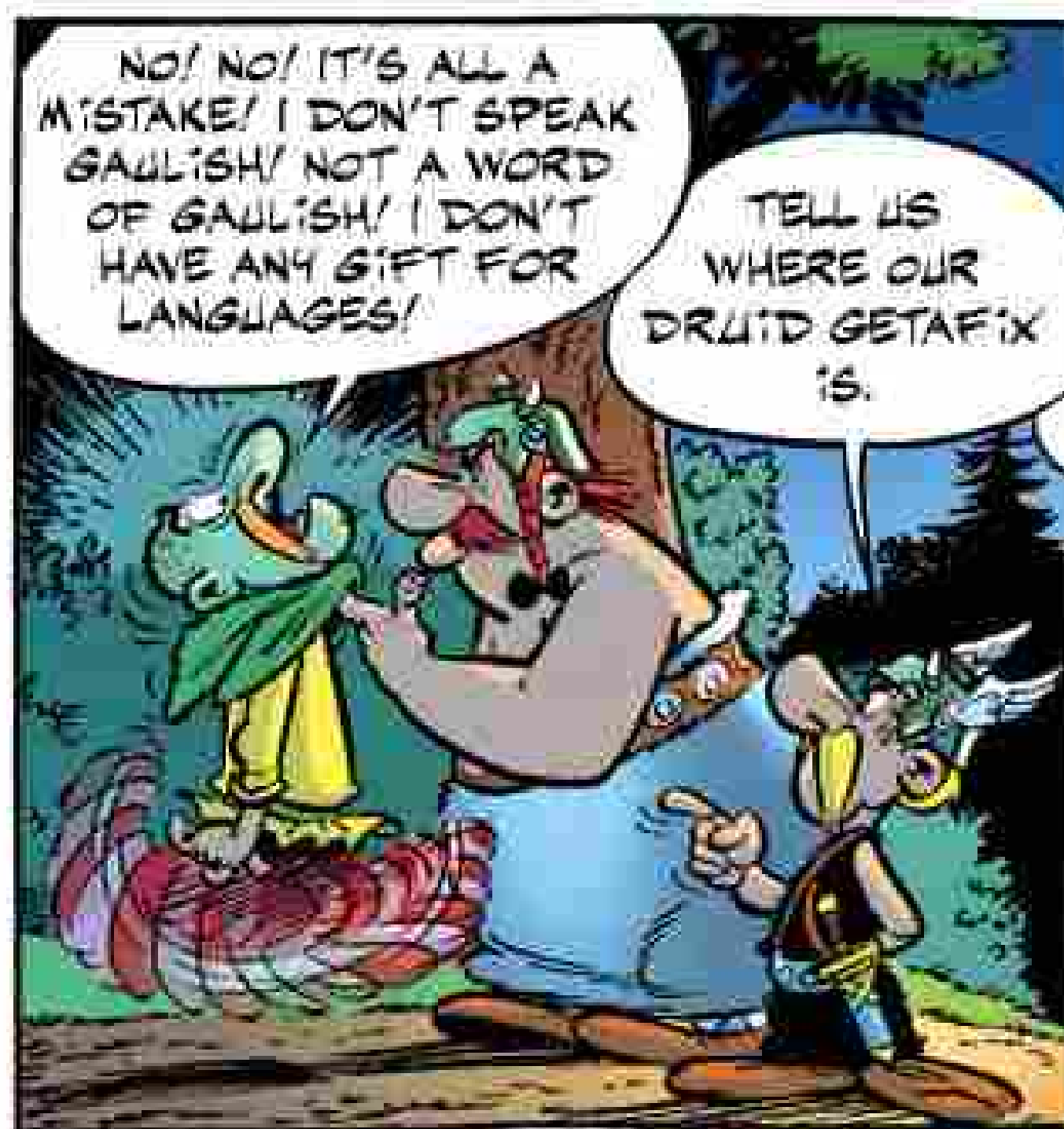


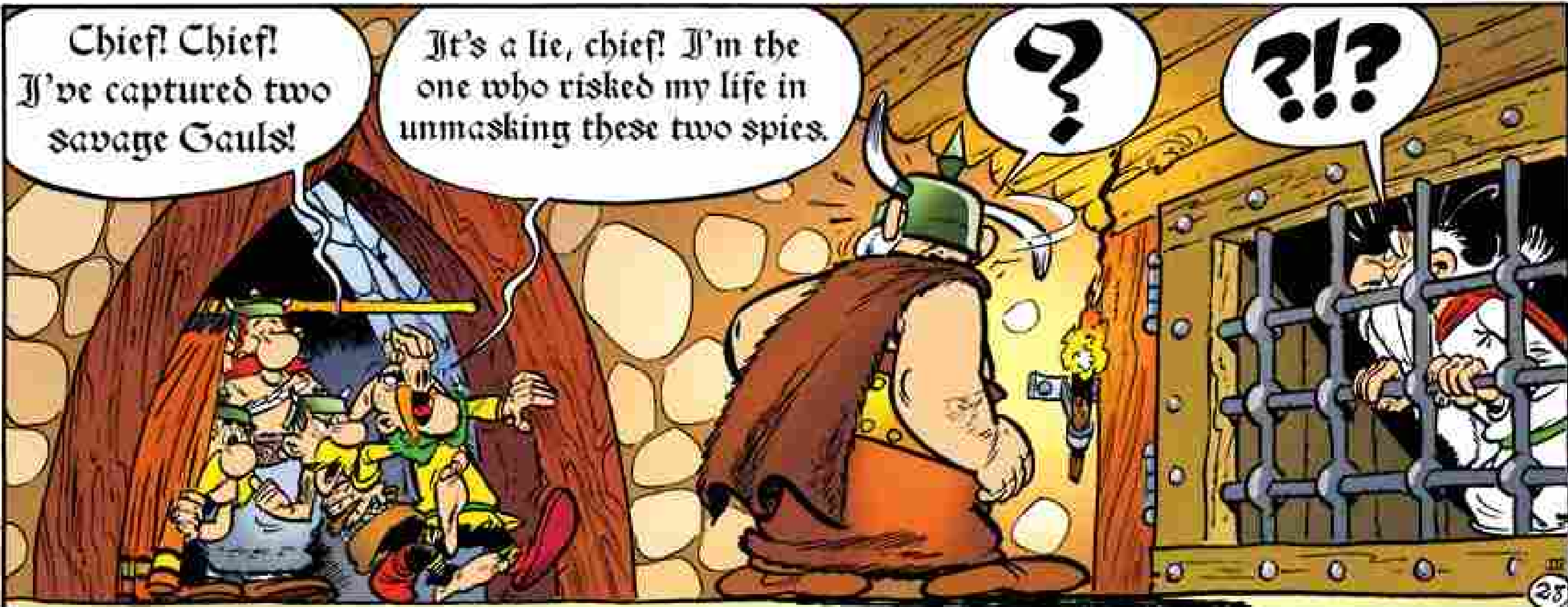
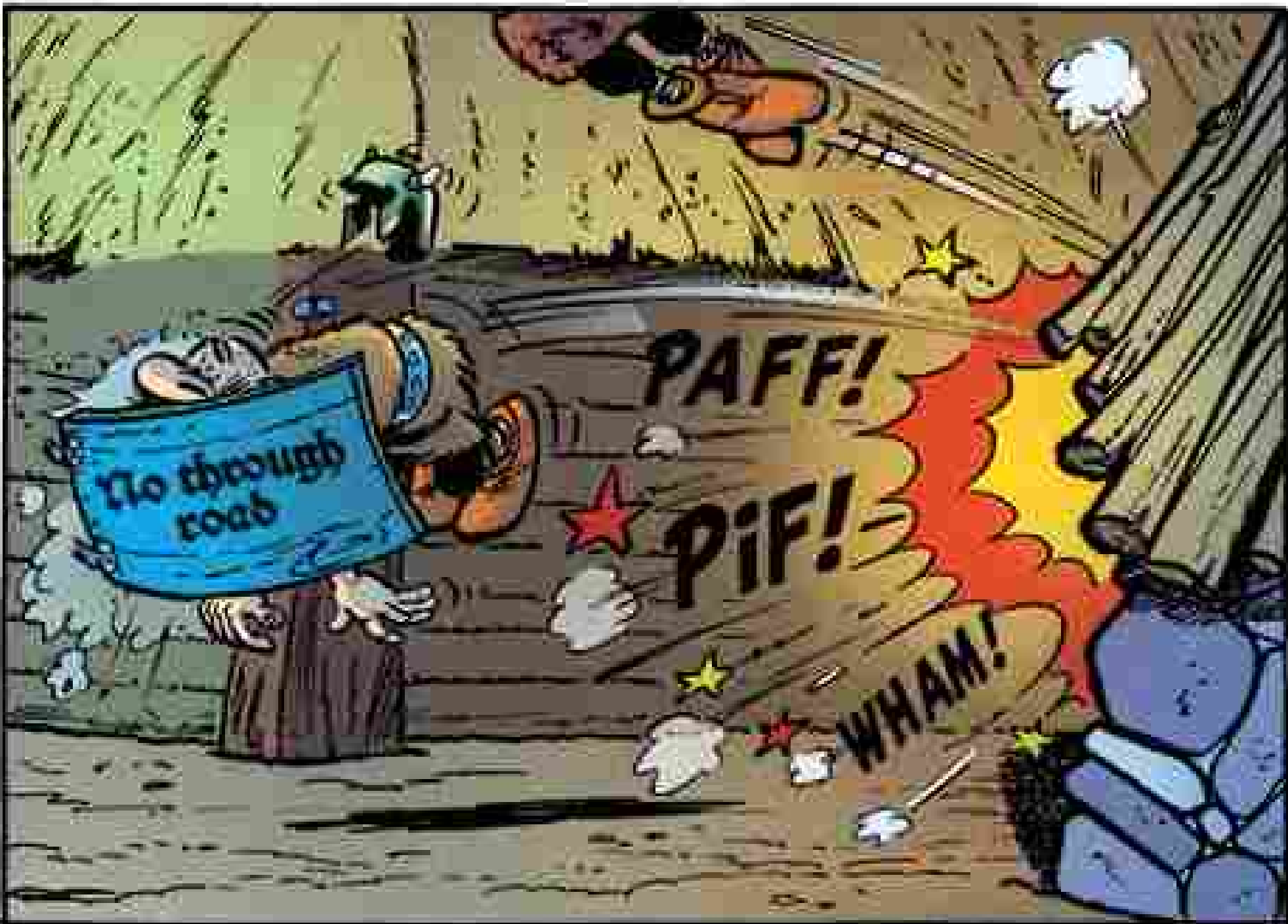
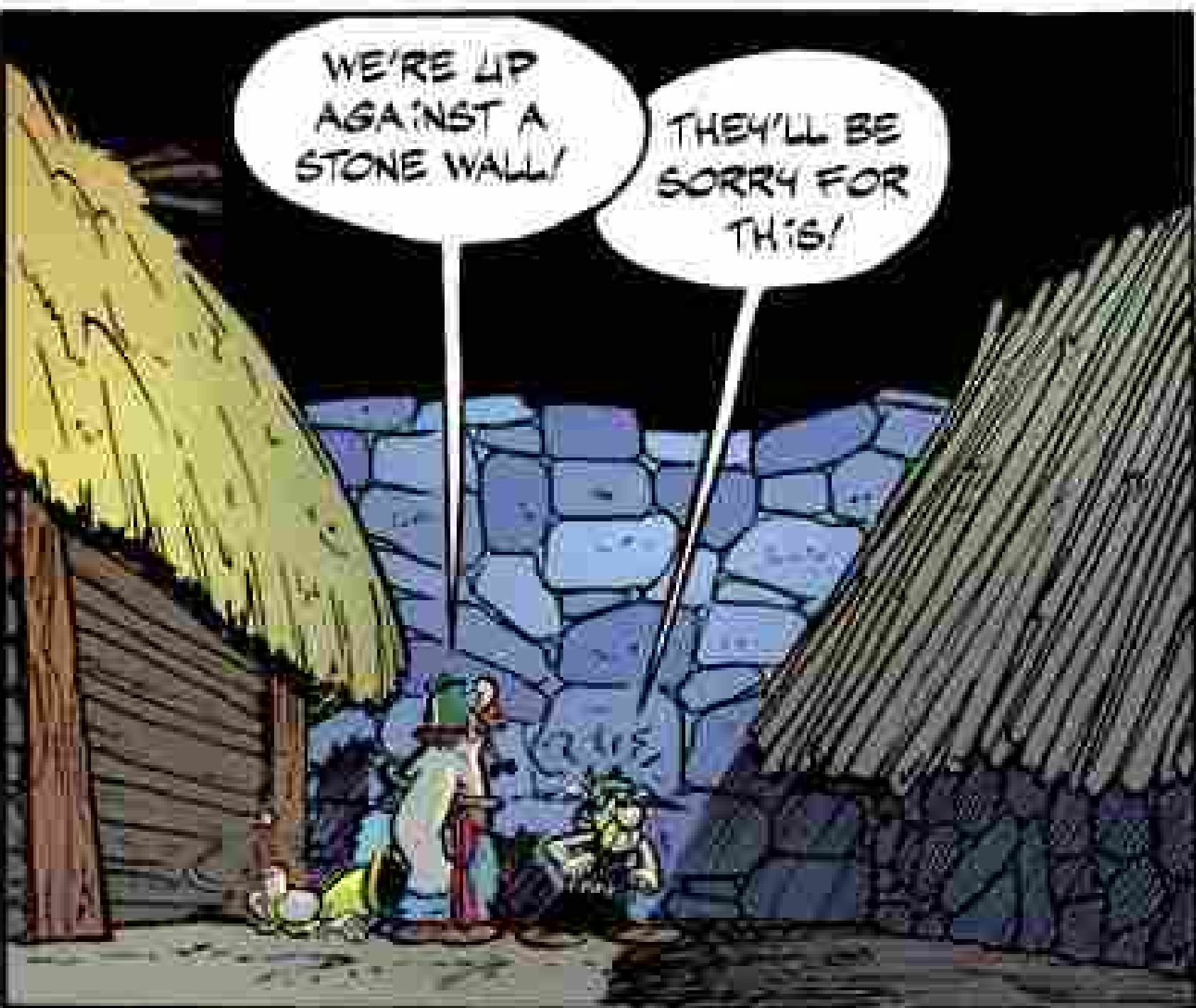


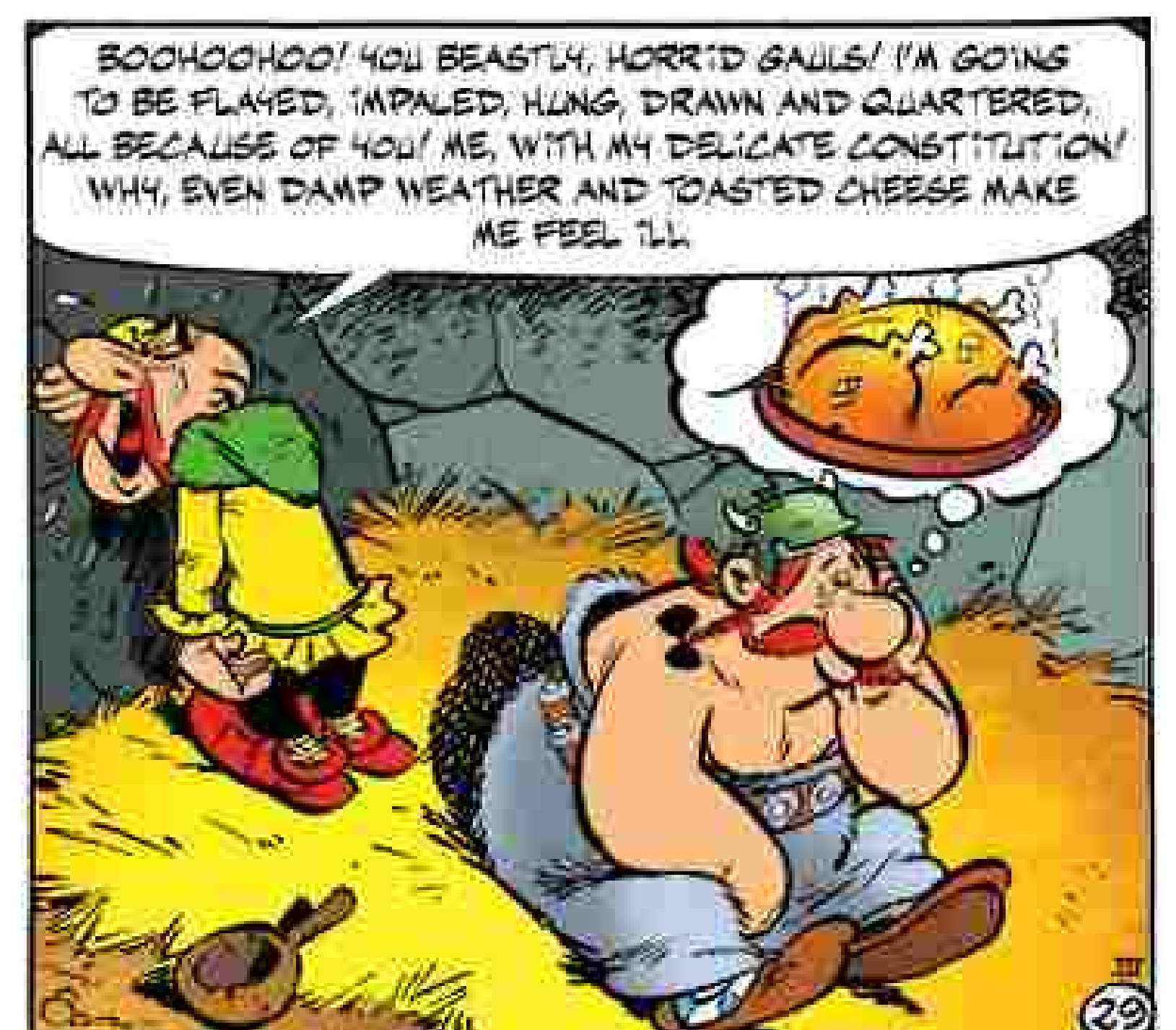
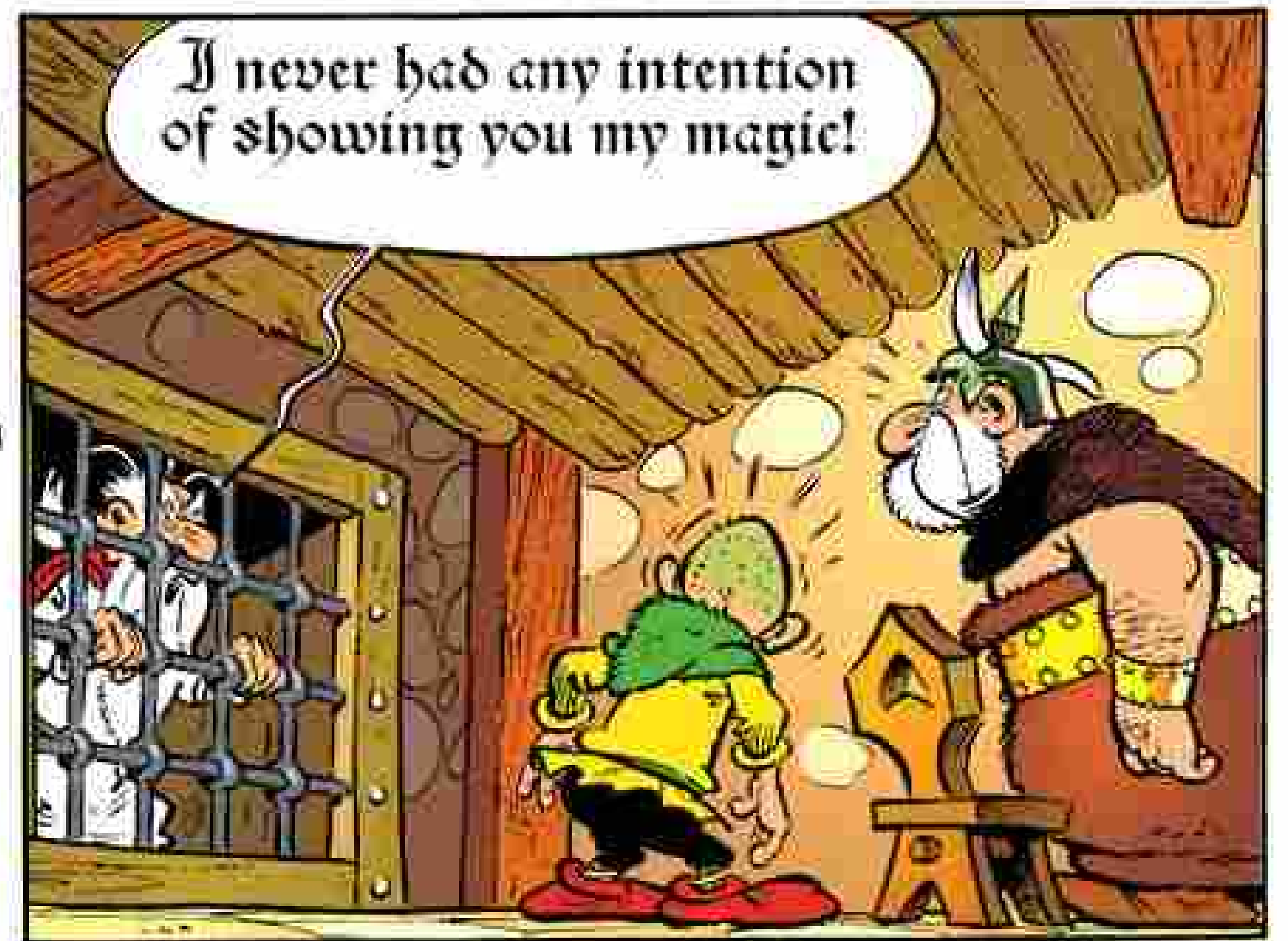
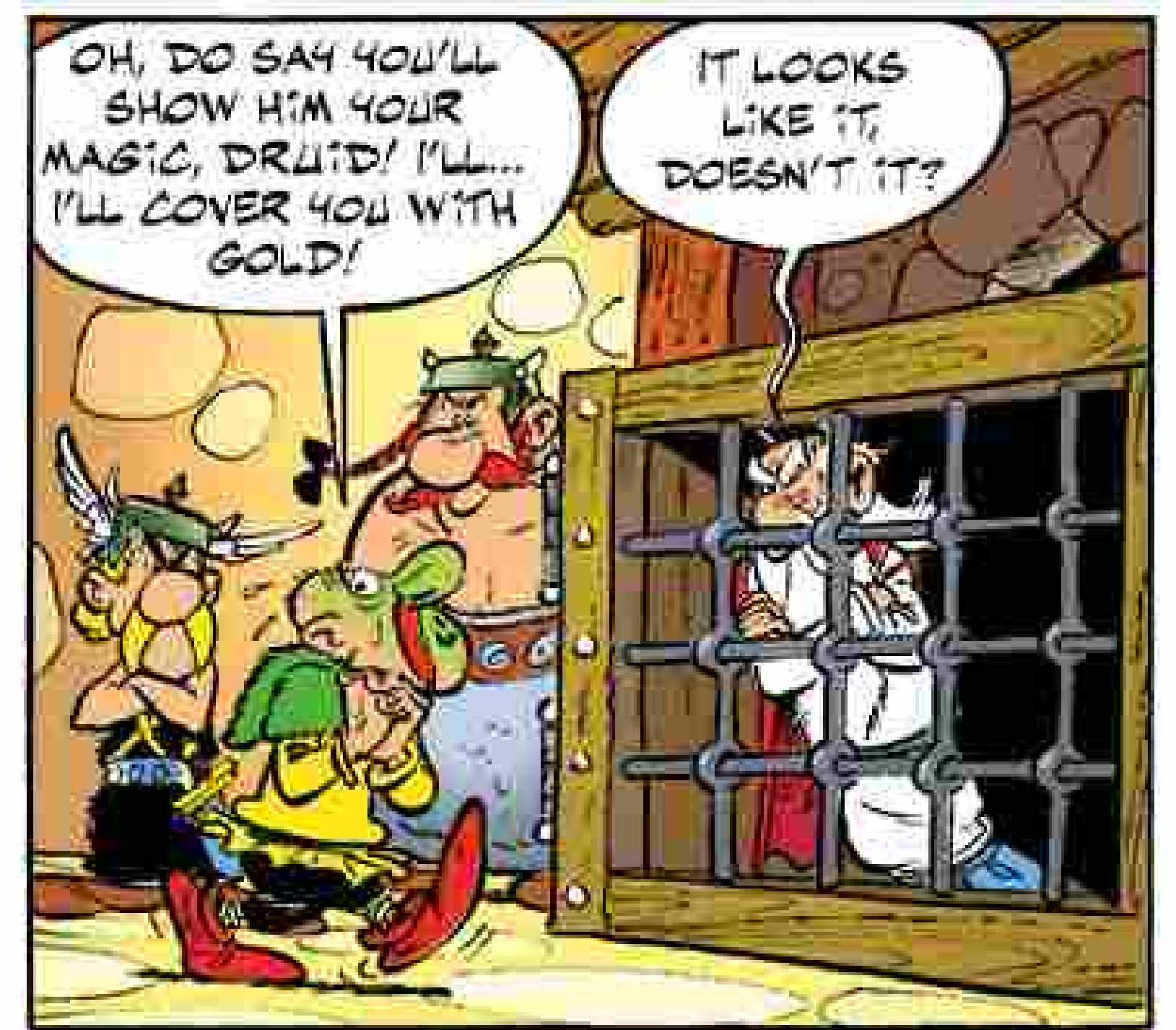




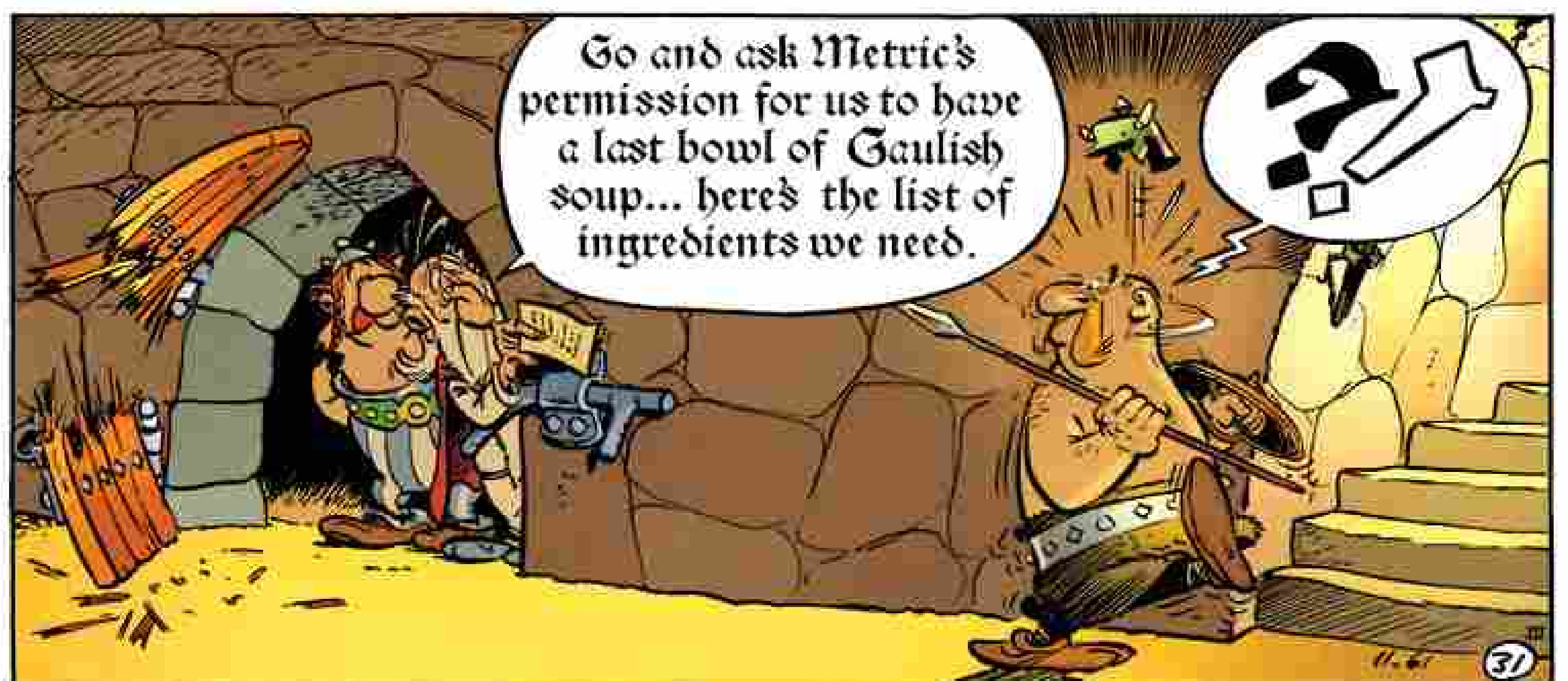


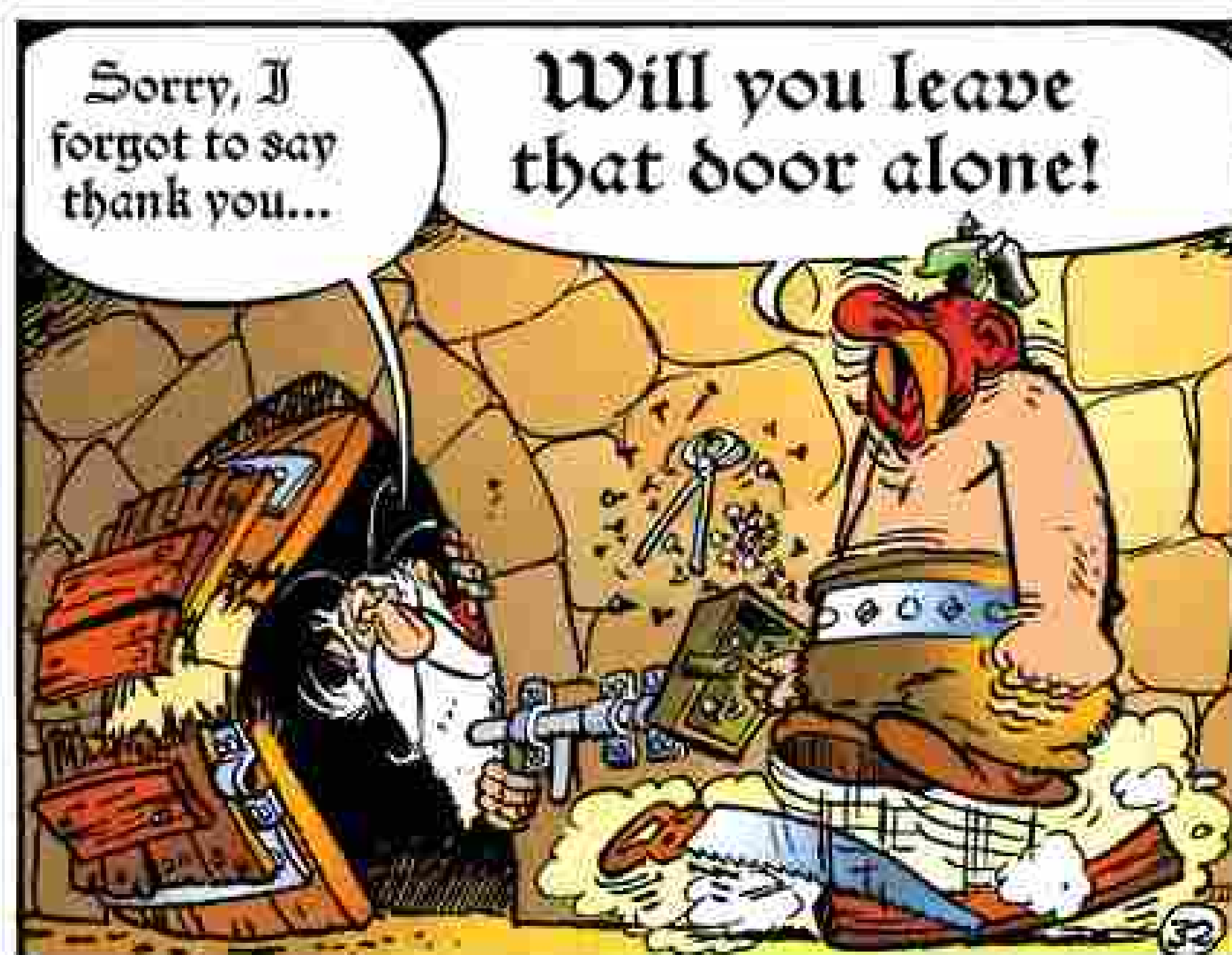
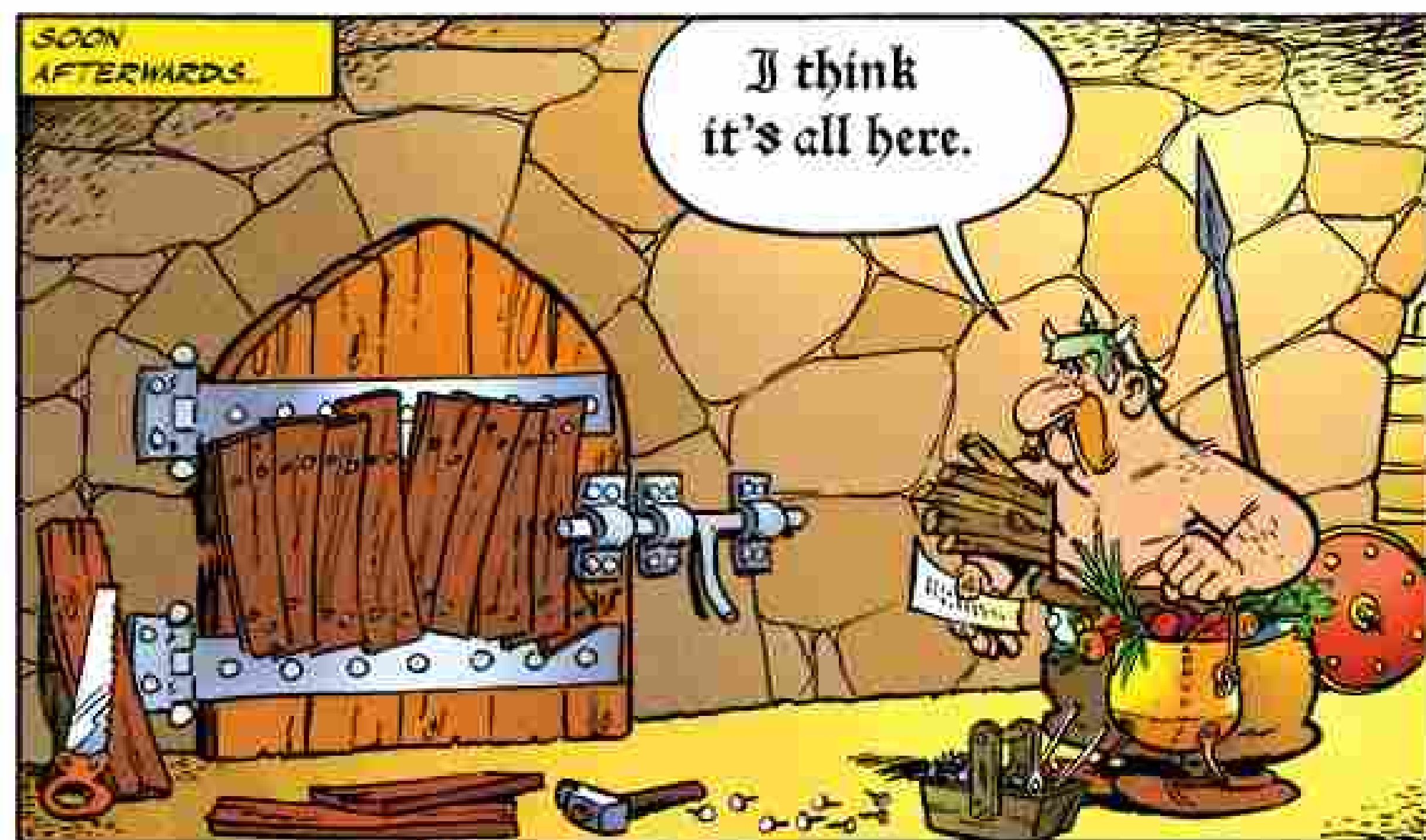
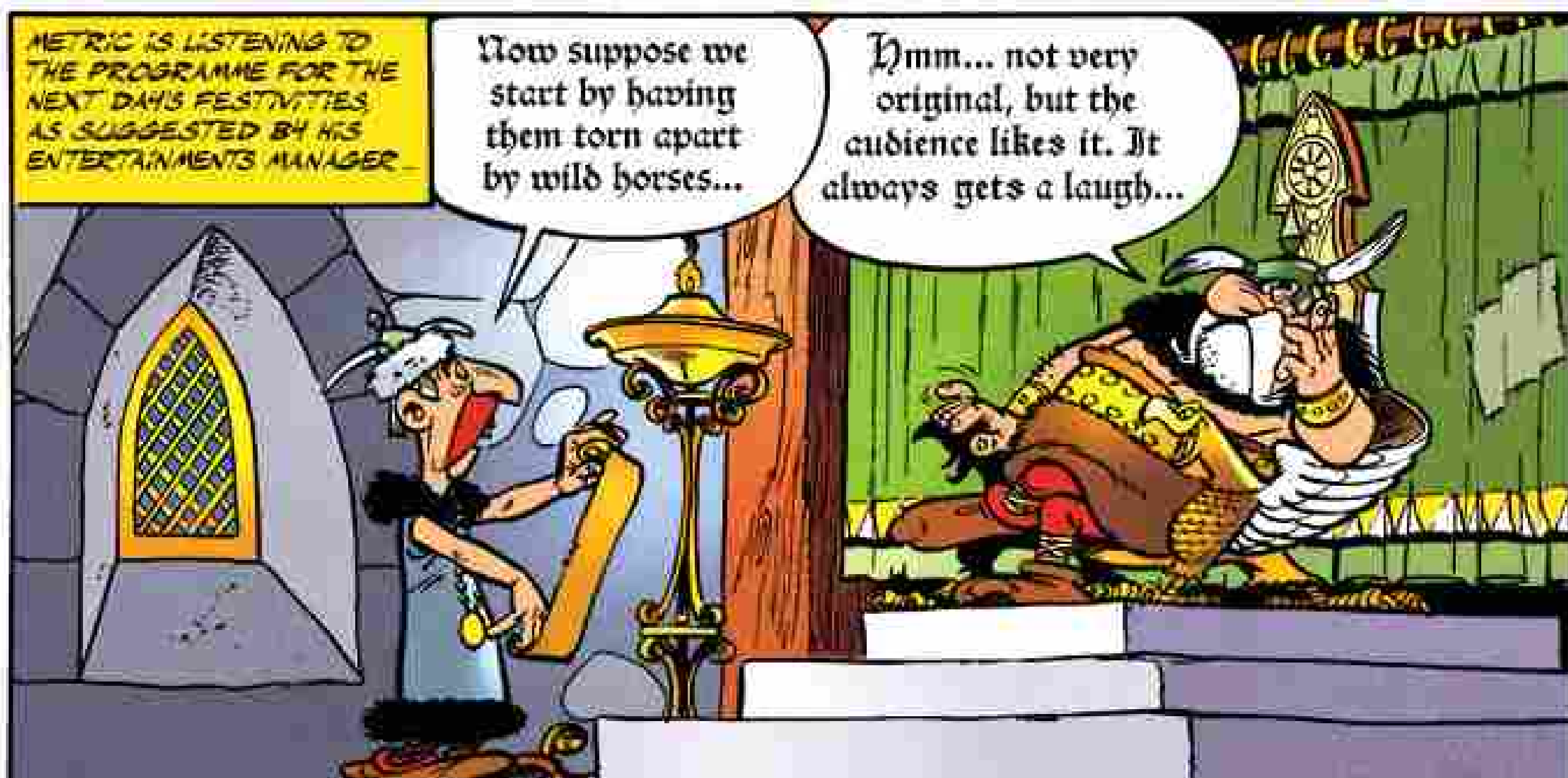


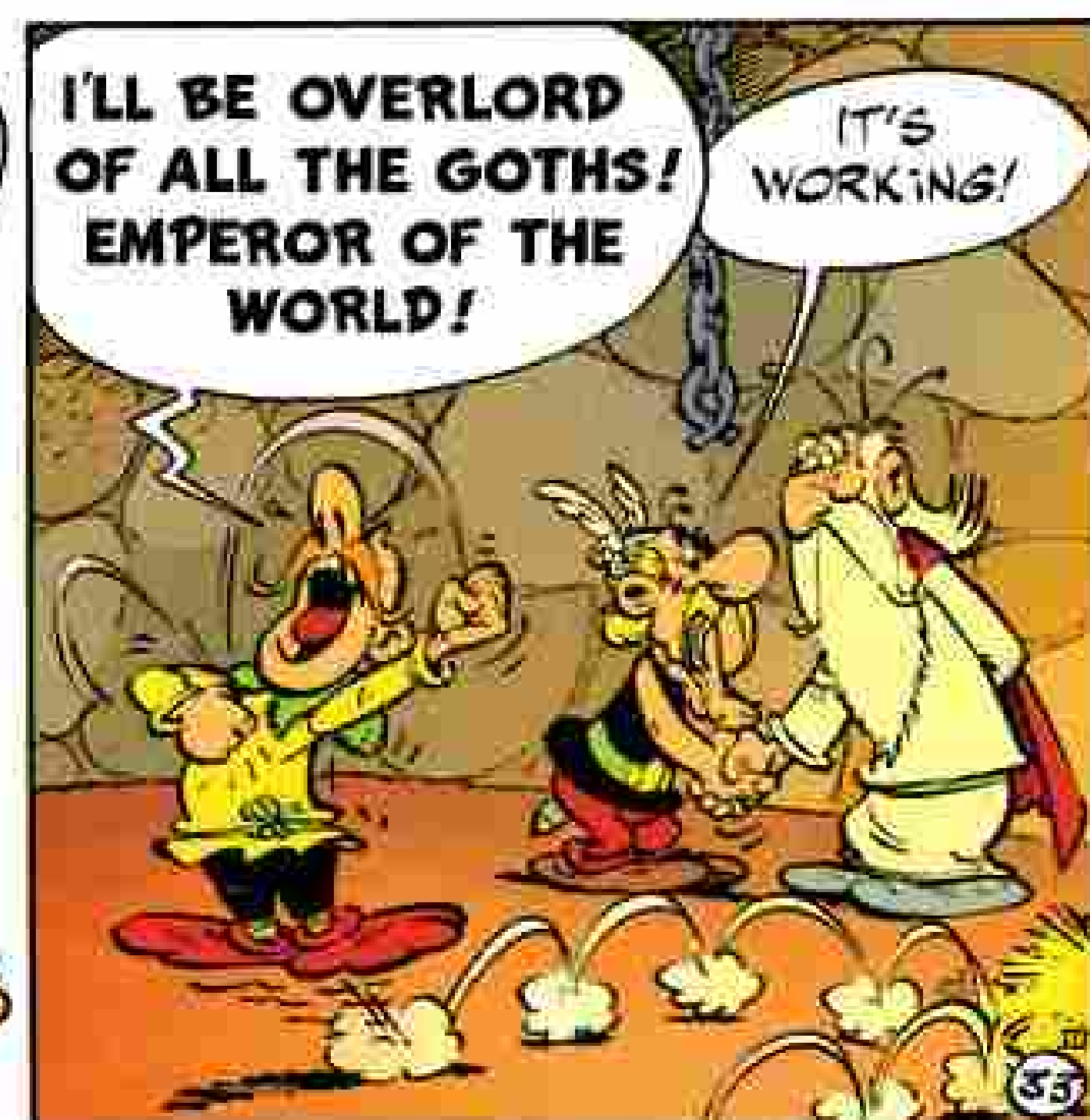
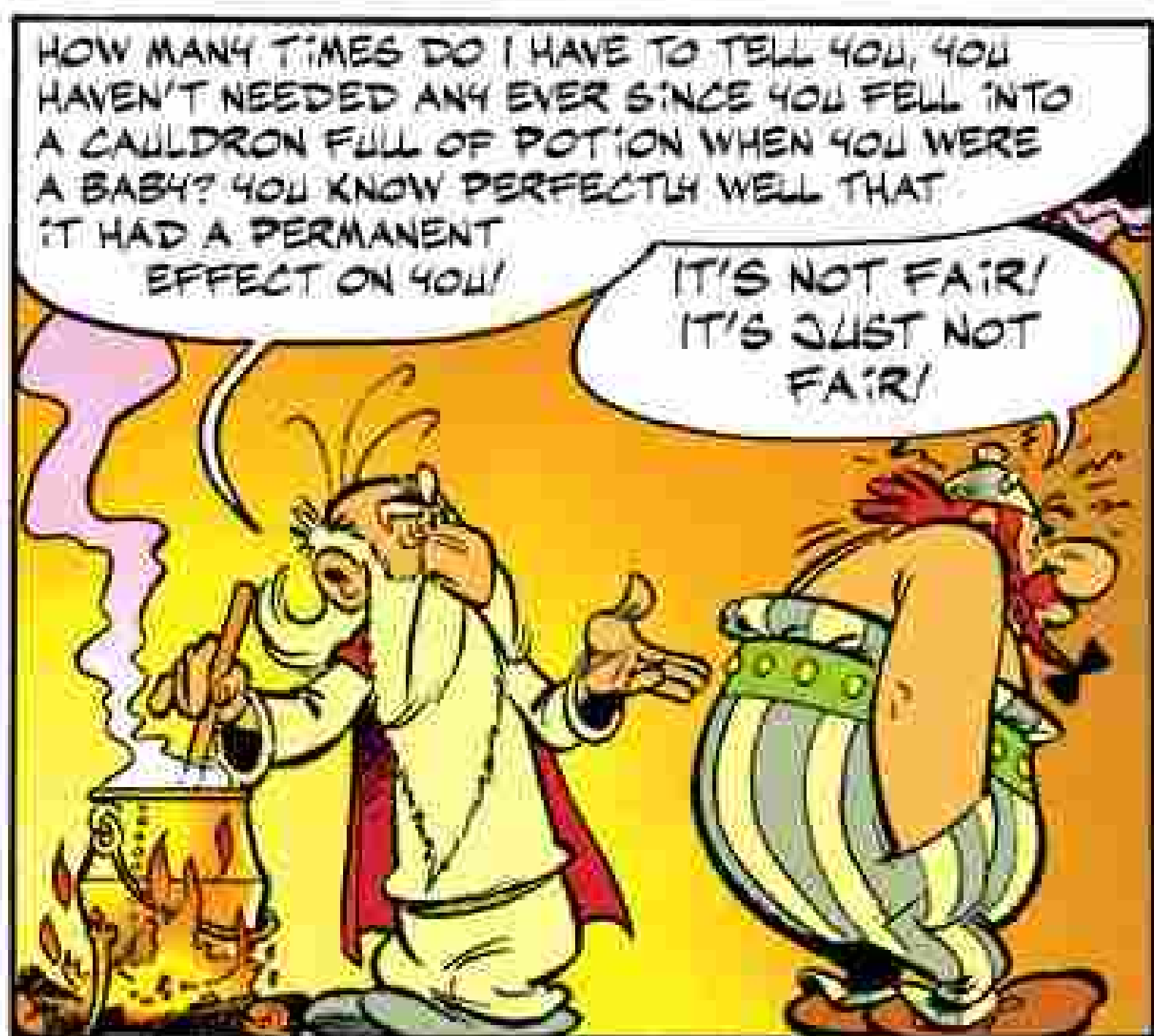


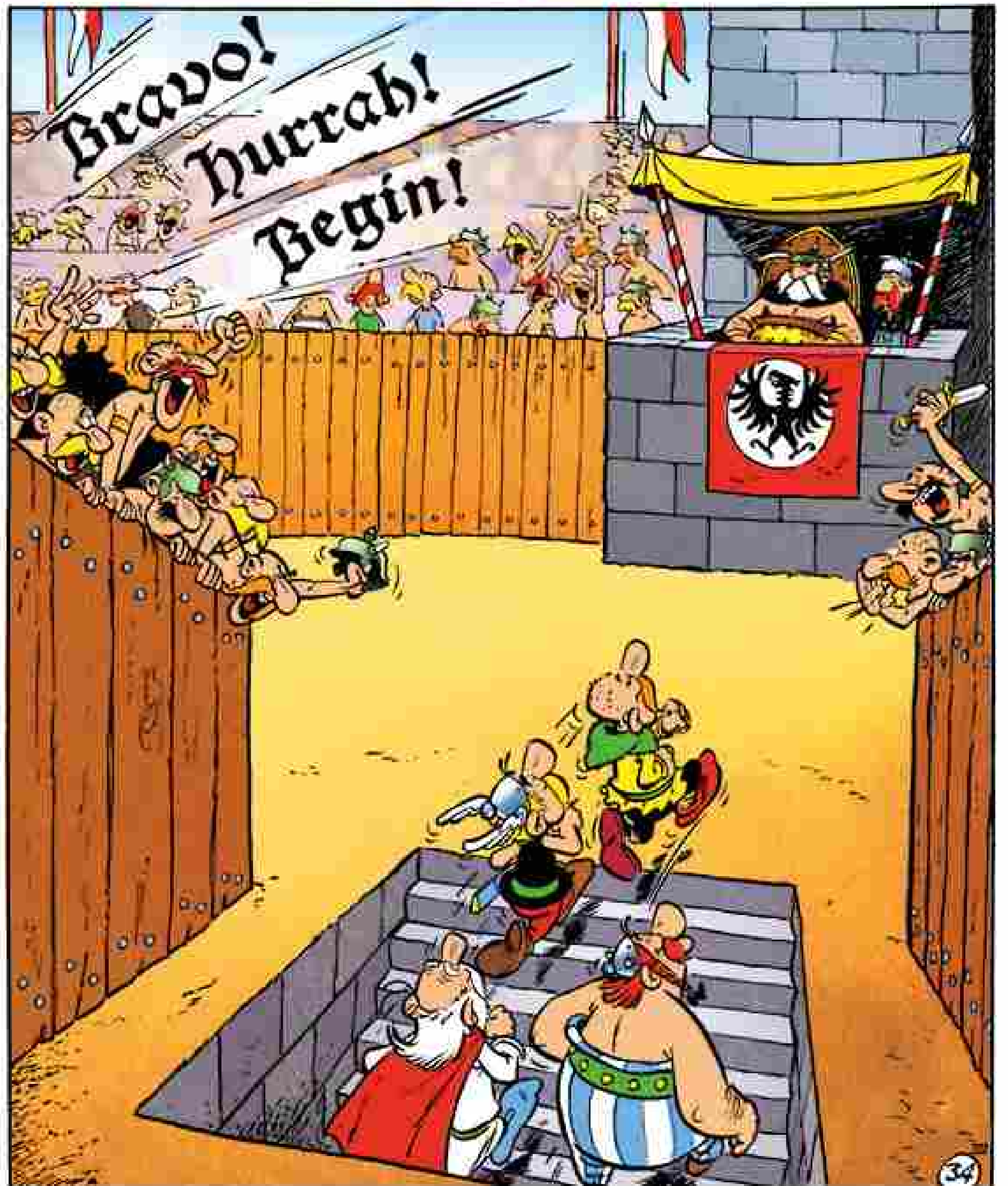
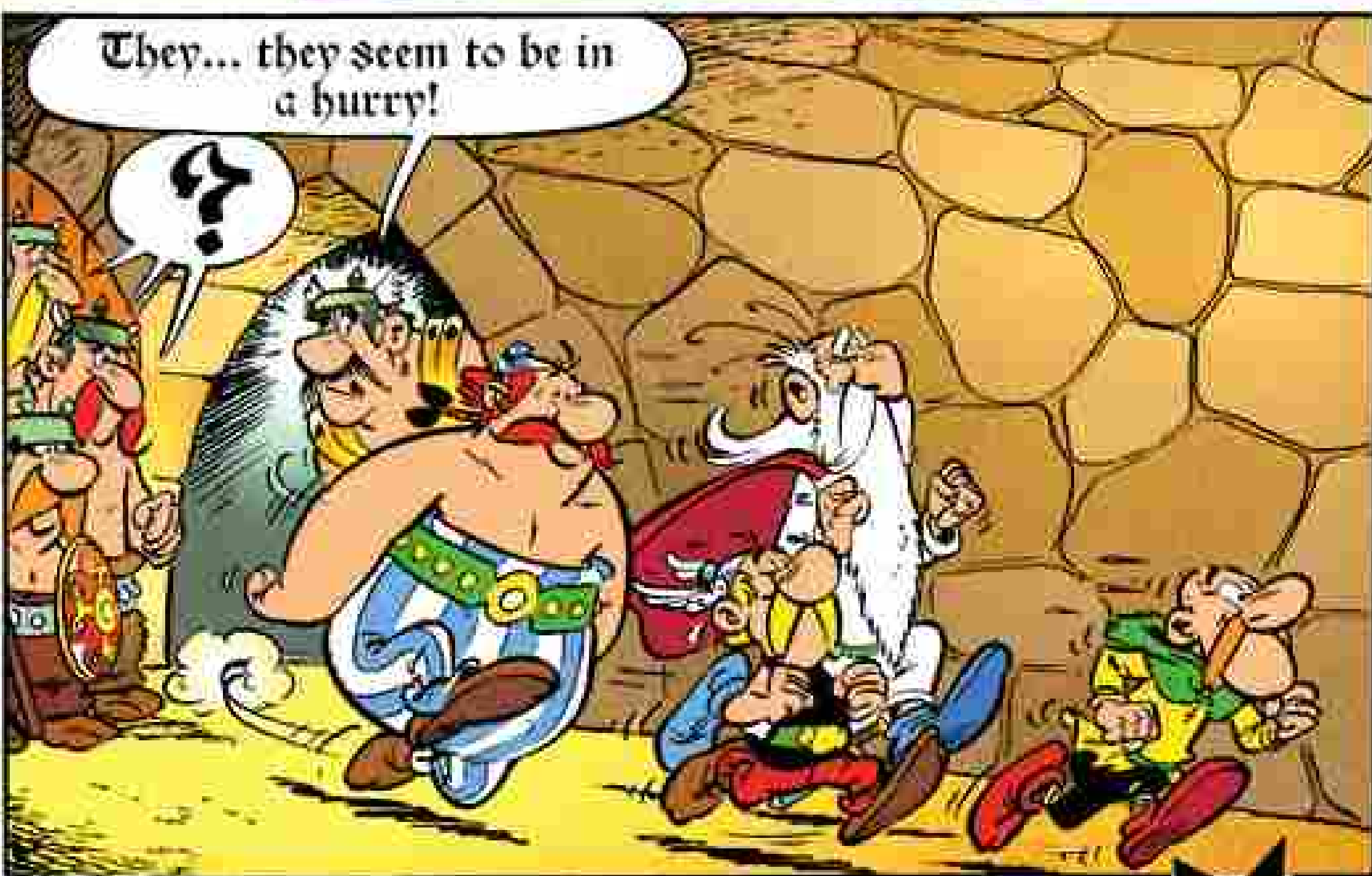


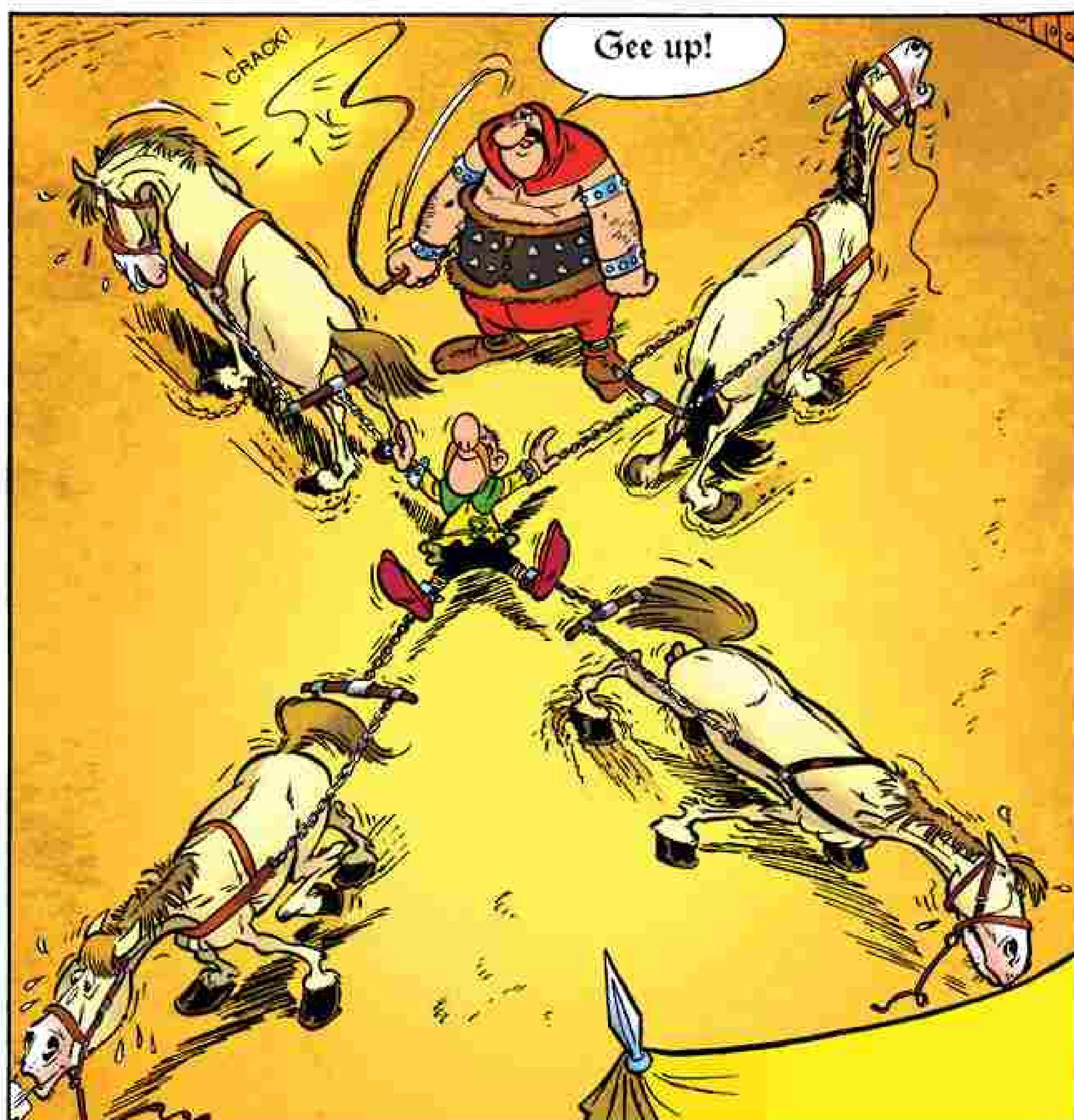


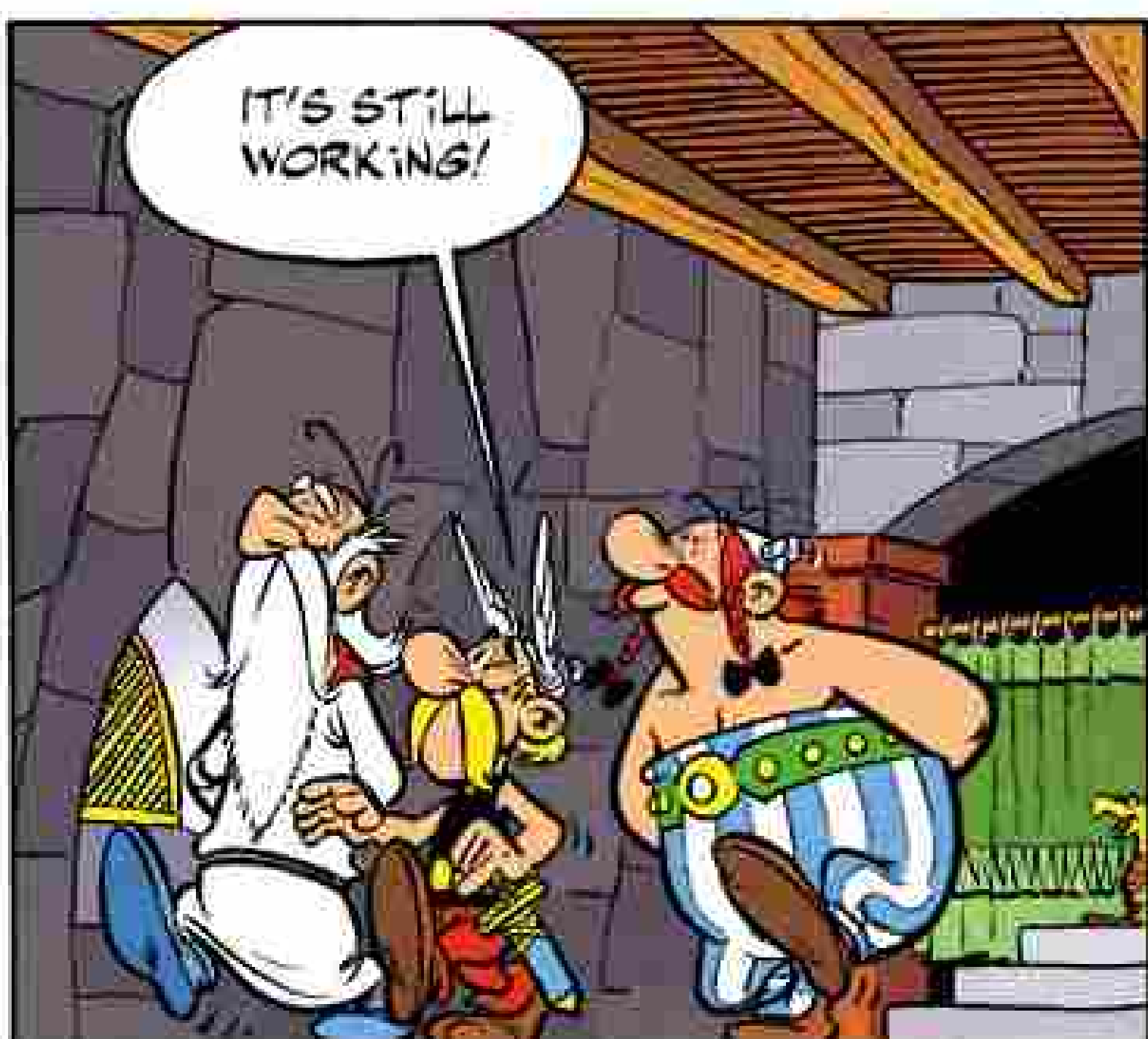
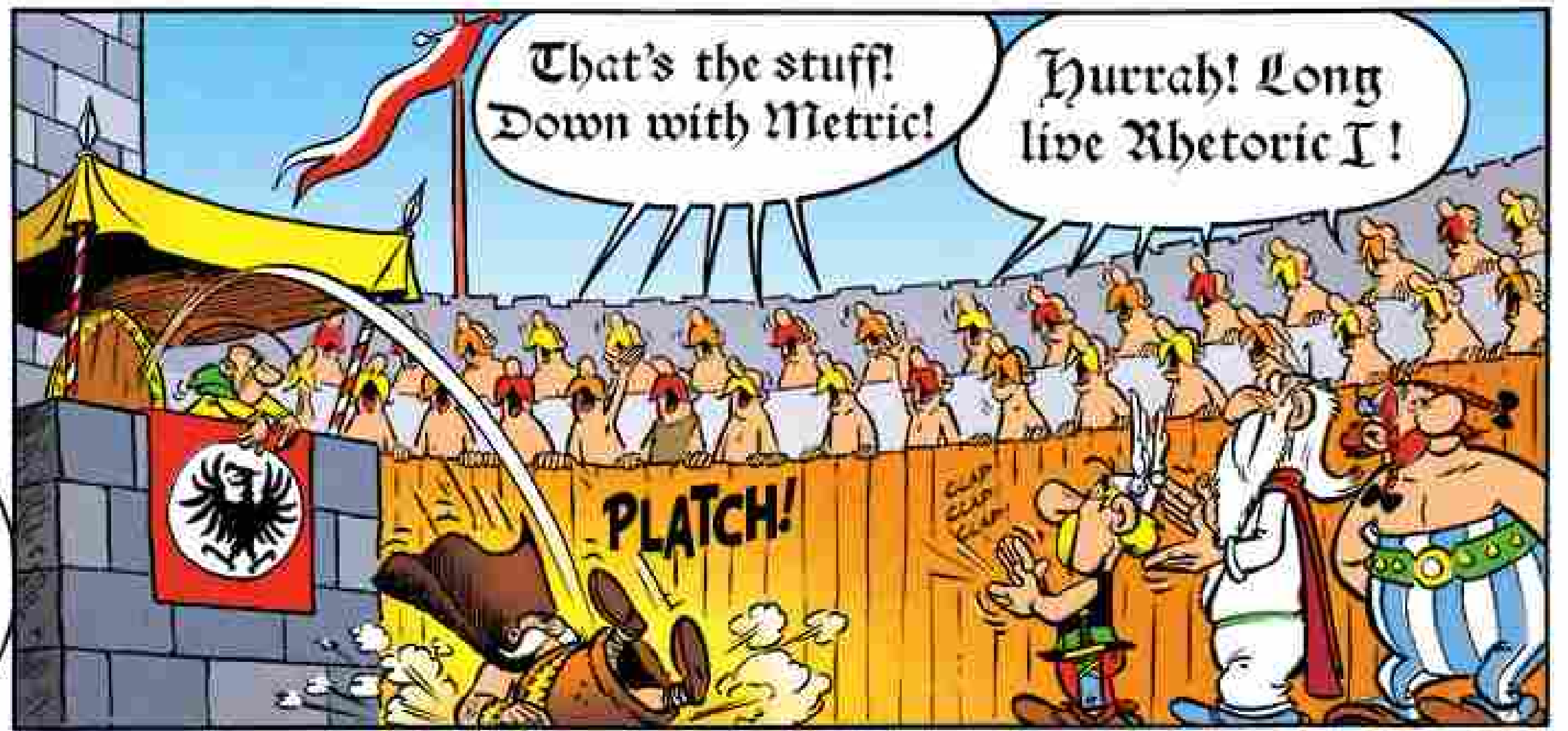
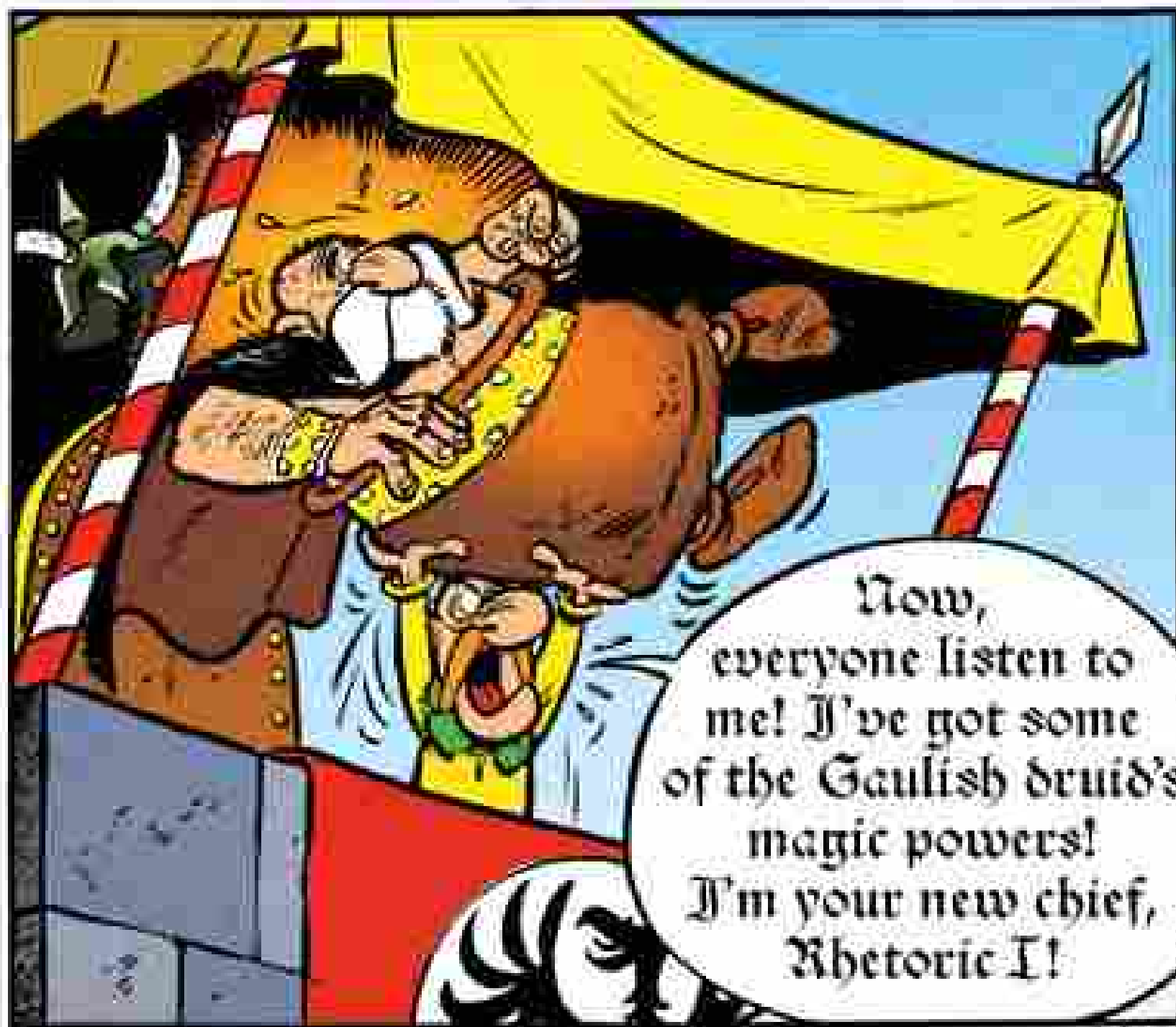




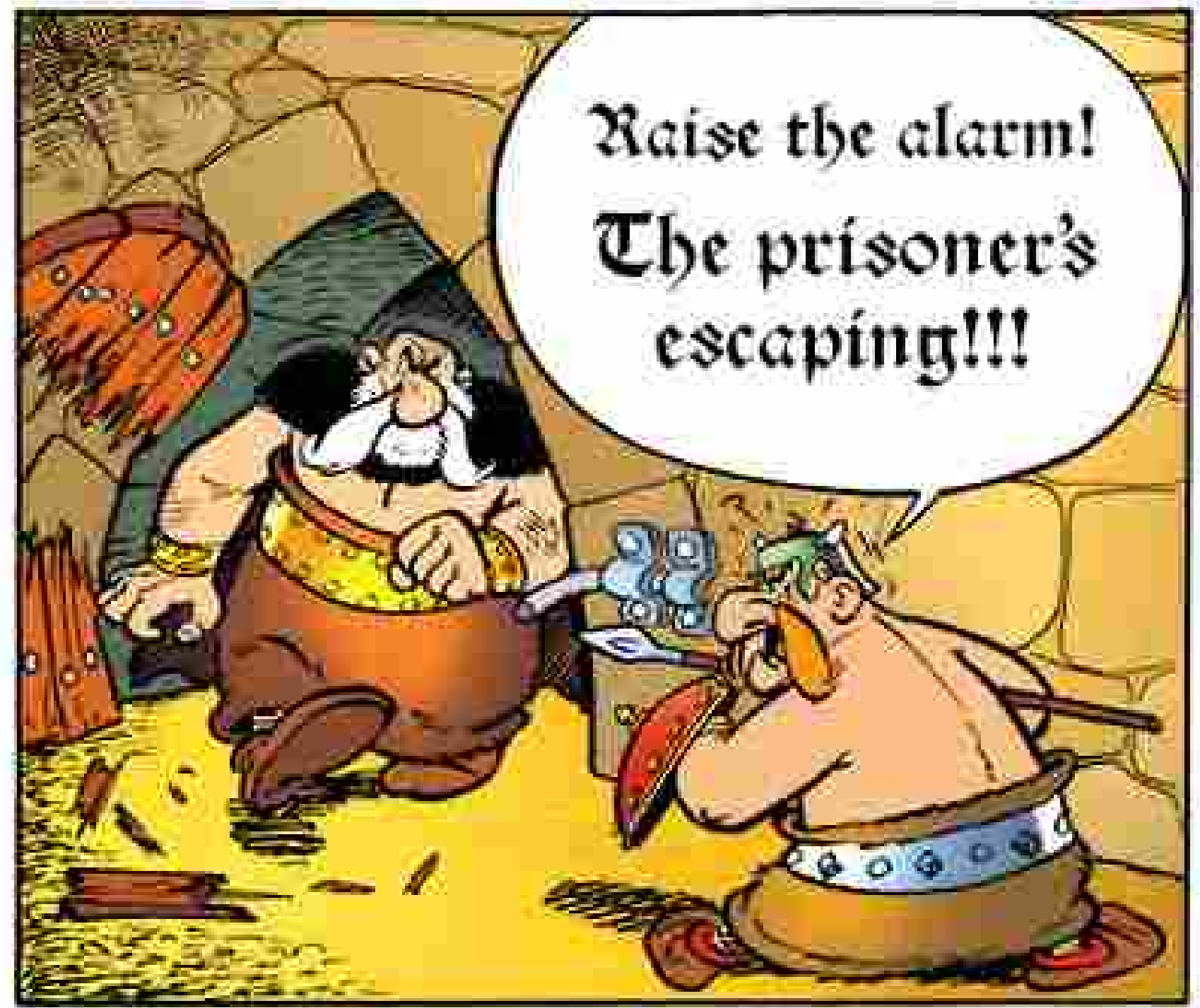
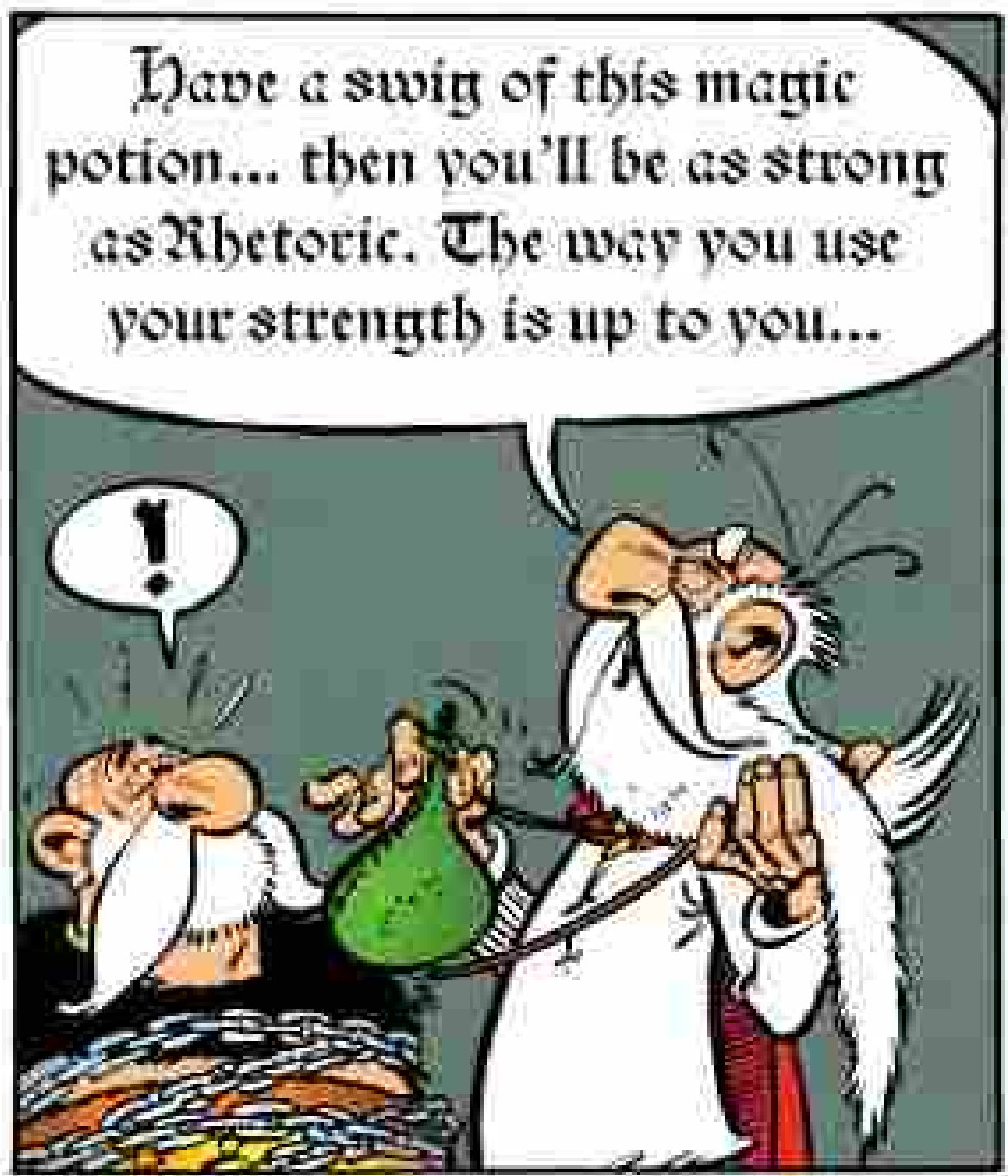
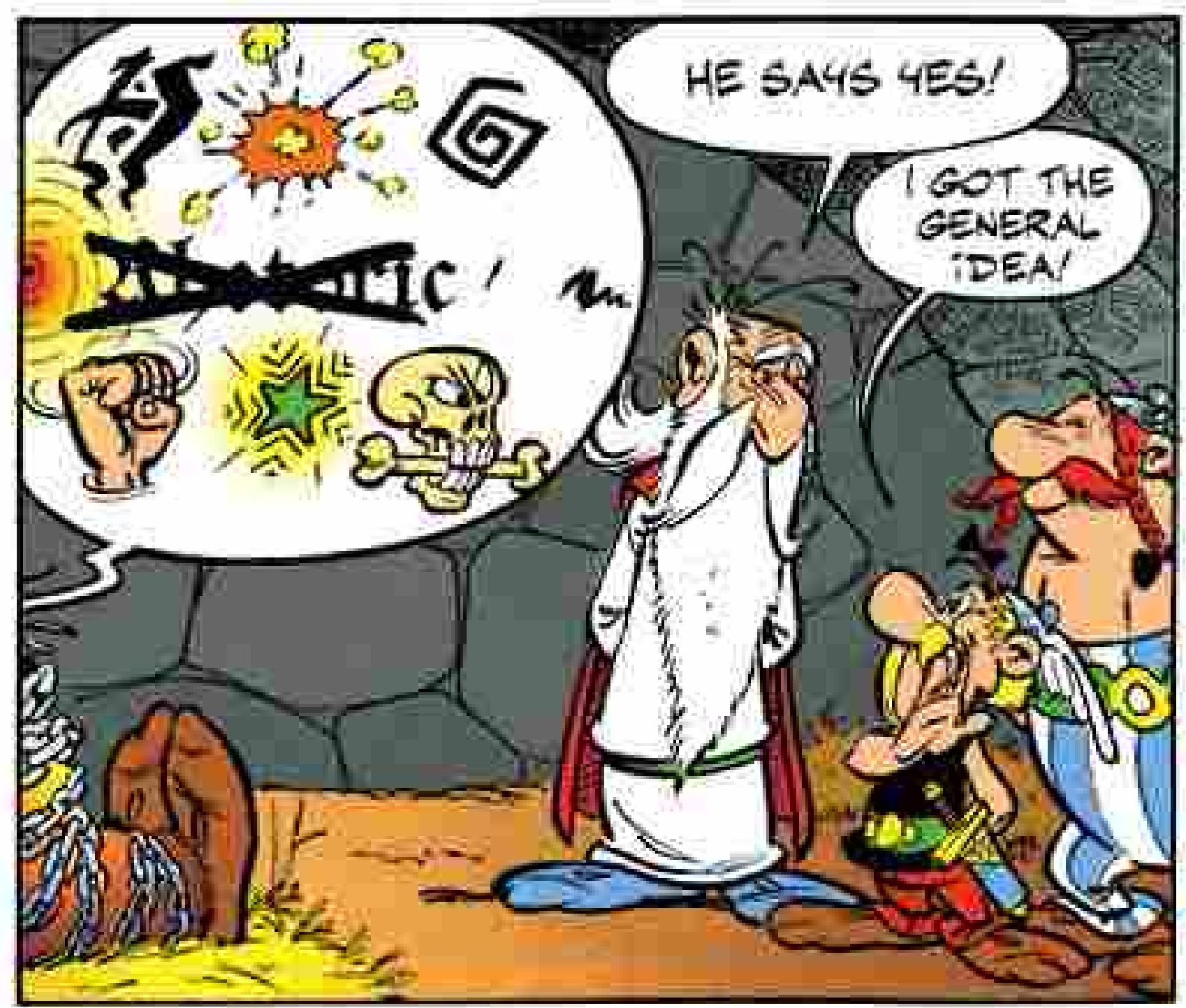
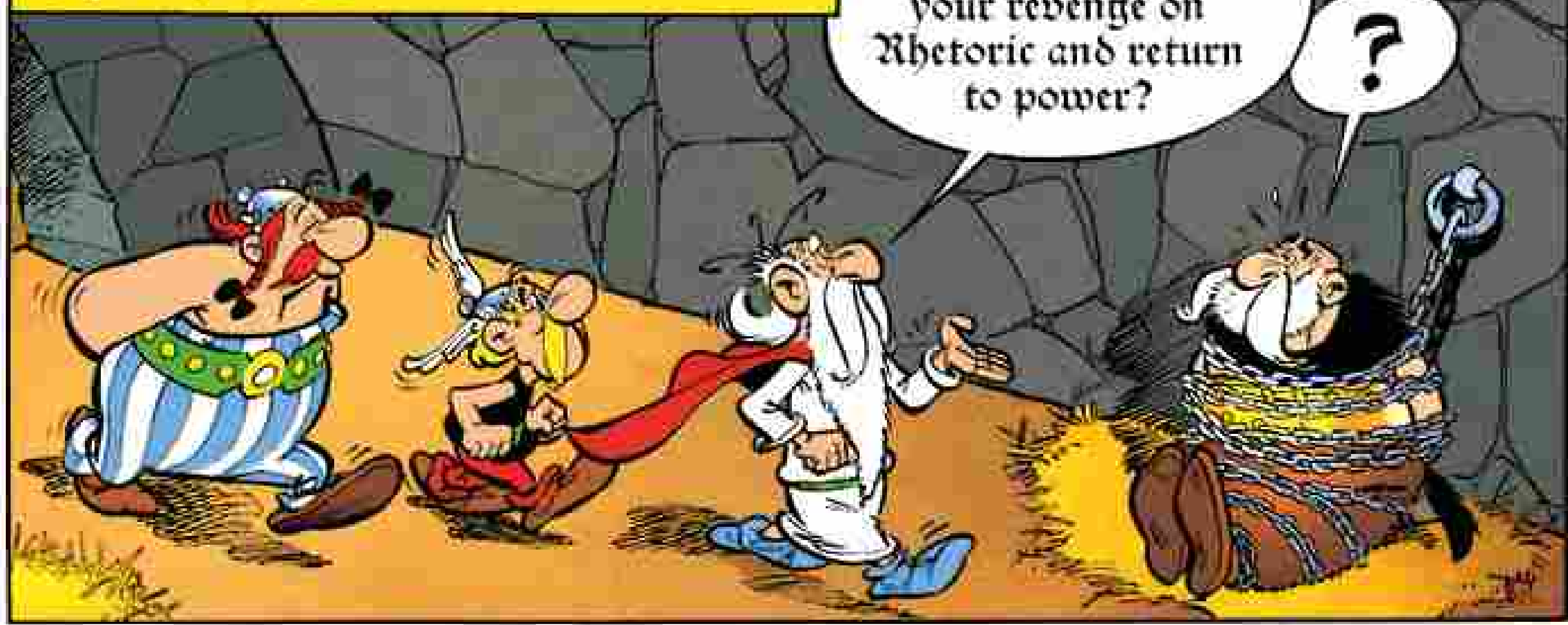




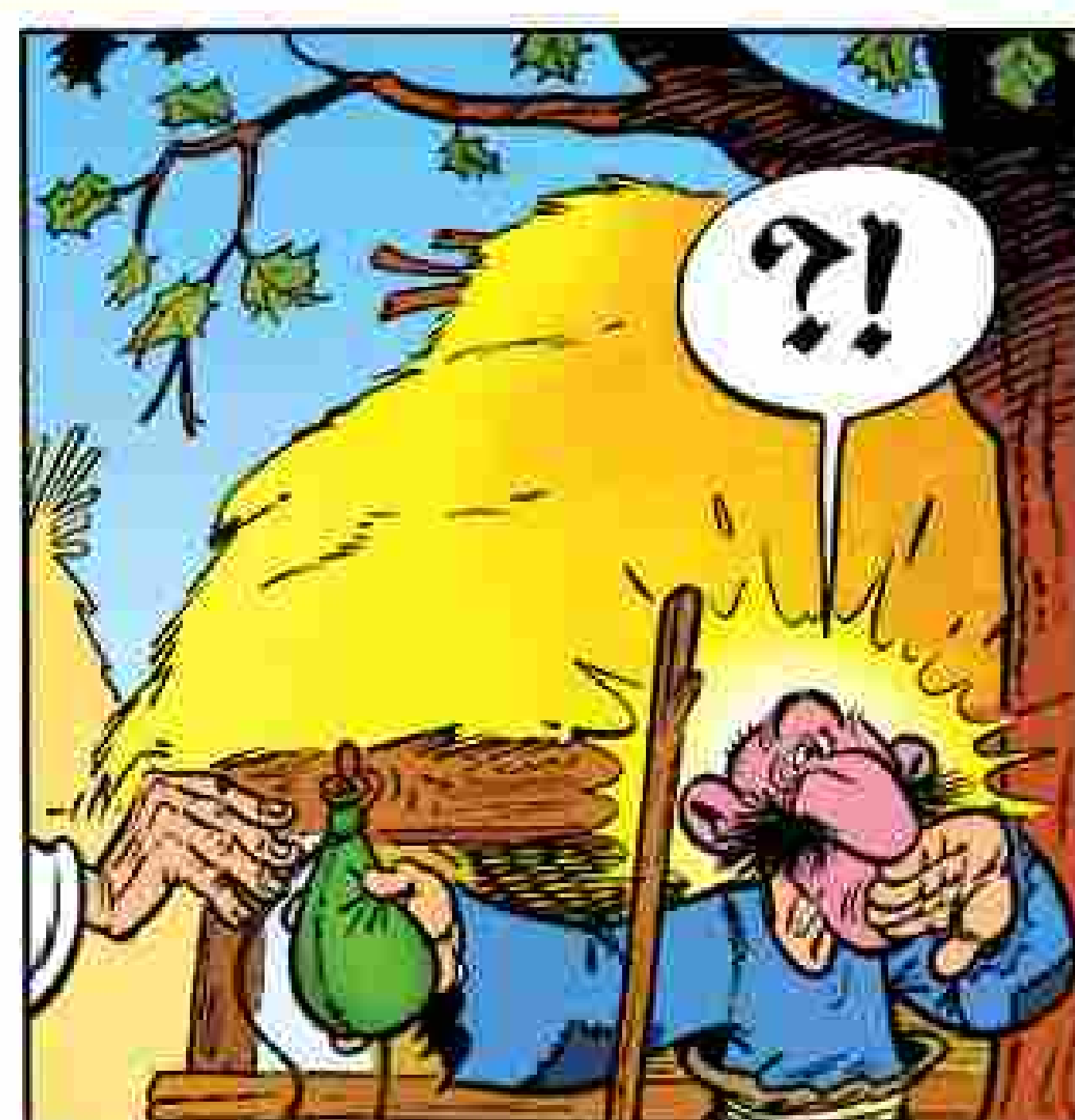
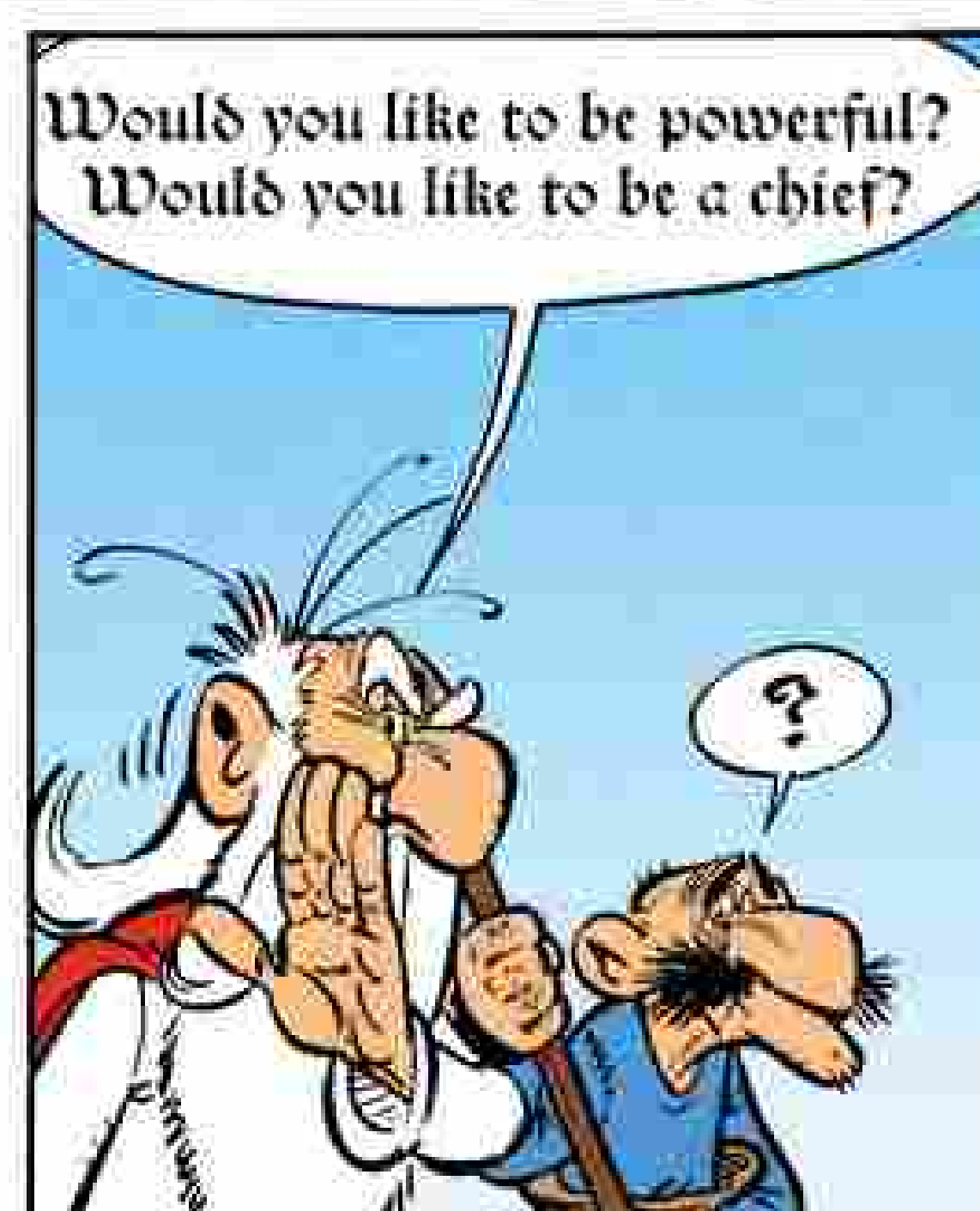
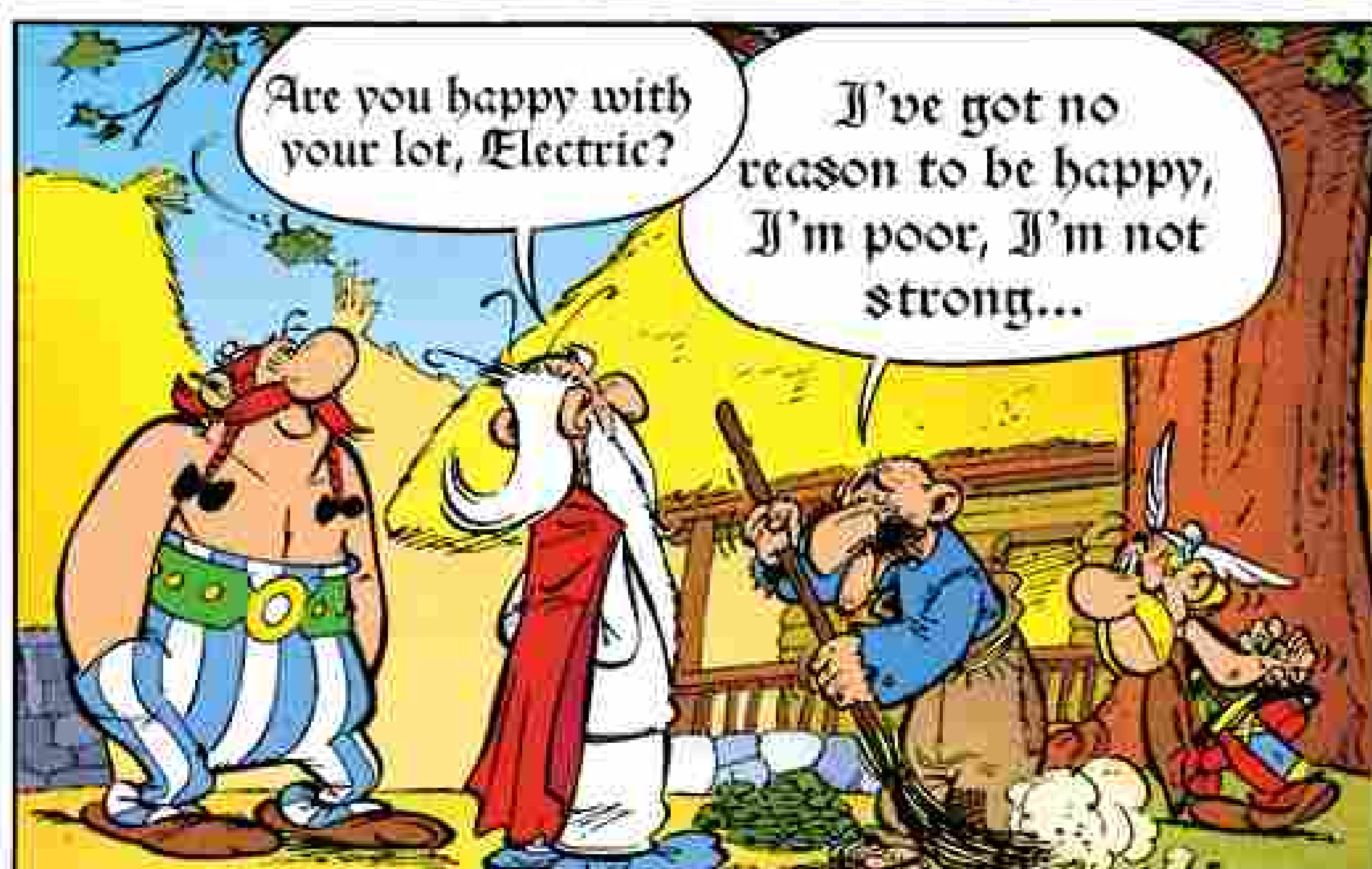


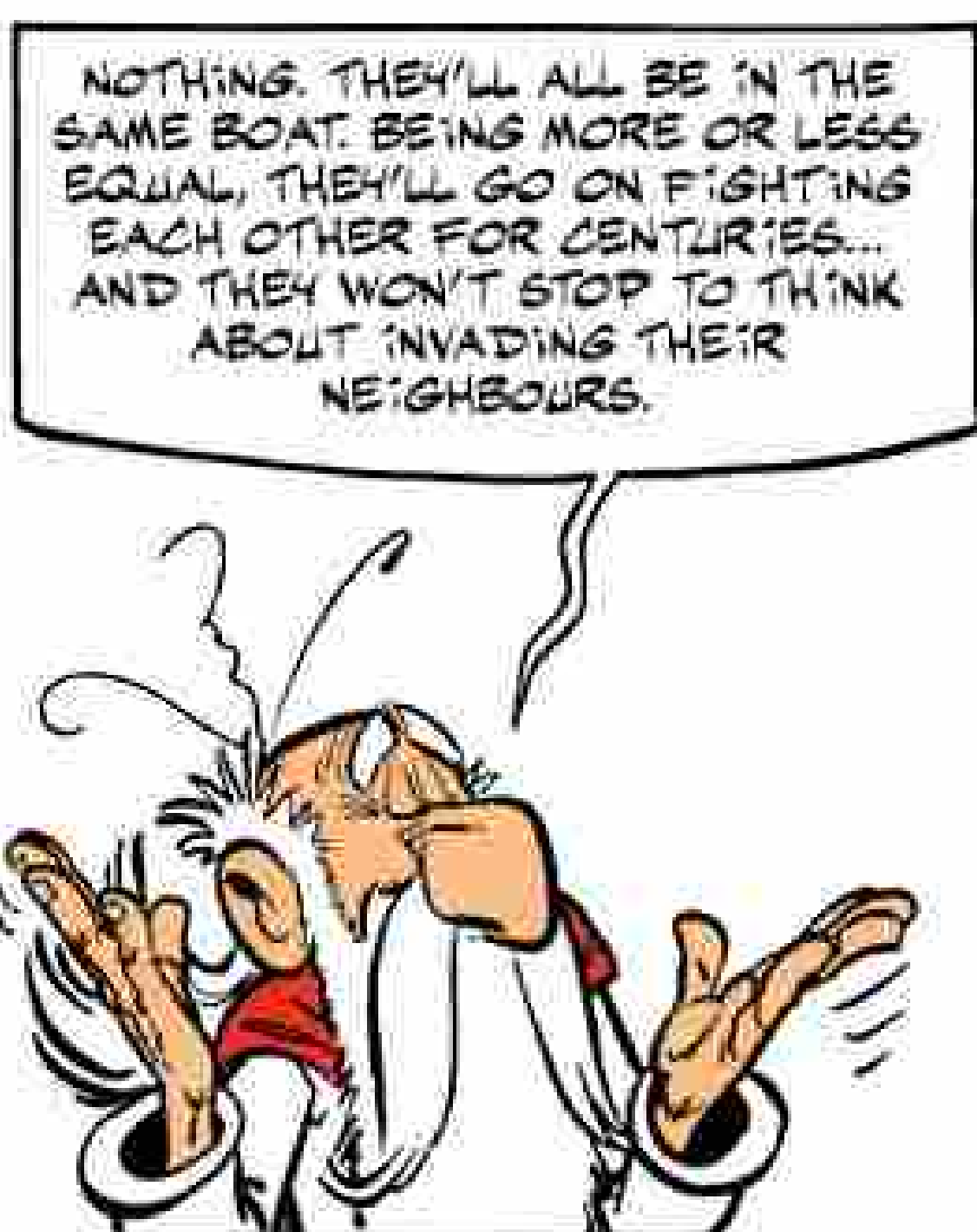


ASTERIX, Getafix and Obelix make their way back to the dungeon for a word with Metric.









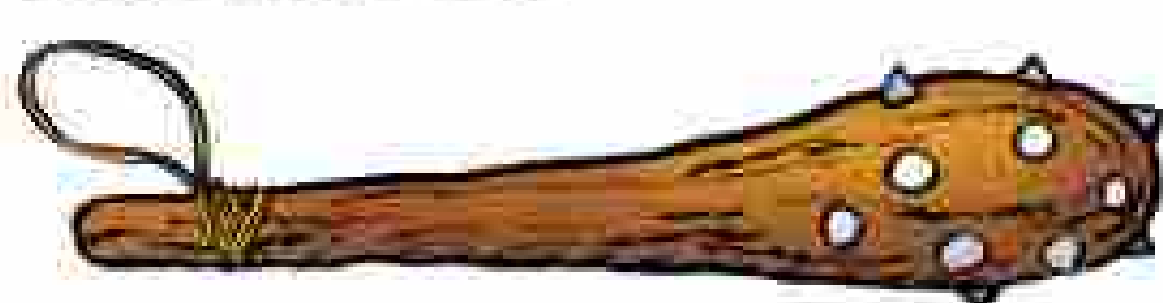
SOME OF THE CHIEFS



Metric



Rhetoric



The favourite and devastating weapon of the combatants.



Diagram indicating the course of events.

THE ASTERIXIAN WARS

A Tangled Web...

The ruse employed by Asterix, Getafix and Obelix succeeded beyond their wildest dreams. After drinking the druid's magic potion, the Goths fought each other tooth and nail. Here is a brief summary to help you follow the history of these famous wars.



The first victory is won outright by Rhetoric, who, having surprised Metric by an outflanking movement, lets him have it – bonk! – and inflicts a crushing defeat on him. This defeat, however, is only temporary...



Rhetoric has no time to celebrate his victory, for, having completed his outflanking movement, he is taken in the rear by his own ally, Lyric. Lyric instantly proclaims himself supreme chief of all the Goths, much to the amusement of the other chiefs...



Who turn out to be right, for Lyric's brother-in-law Satiric lays an ambush for him, pretending to invite him to a family reunion, and Lyric falls into the trap. It was upon this occasion that the proposition that blood is thicker than water was first put to the test...



Rhetoric goes after Lyric, with the avowed intention of "bashing him up" (archaic), but his rearguard is surprised by Metric's vanguard. Bonk! This manoeuvre is known as the Metric System.



General Electric manages to surprise Euphoric meditating on the conduct of his next few campaigns. Euphoric's morale is distinctly lowered, but he has the last word, with his famous remark, "I'll short-circuit him yet!"



While Electric proclaims himself supreme chief of the Goths, to the amusement of all and sundry, it is the turn of Metric's rearguard to be surprised by Rhetoric's vanguard. Bonk! "This is bad for my system," is the comment of the exasperated Metric.



In fact, it is so bad for his system that he allows himself to be surprised by Euphoric. The battle is short and sharp. Euphoric, a wily politician, instantly proclaims himself supreme chief of the Goths. The other supreme chiefs are in fits...



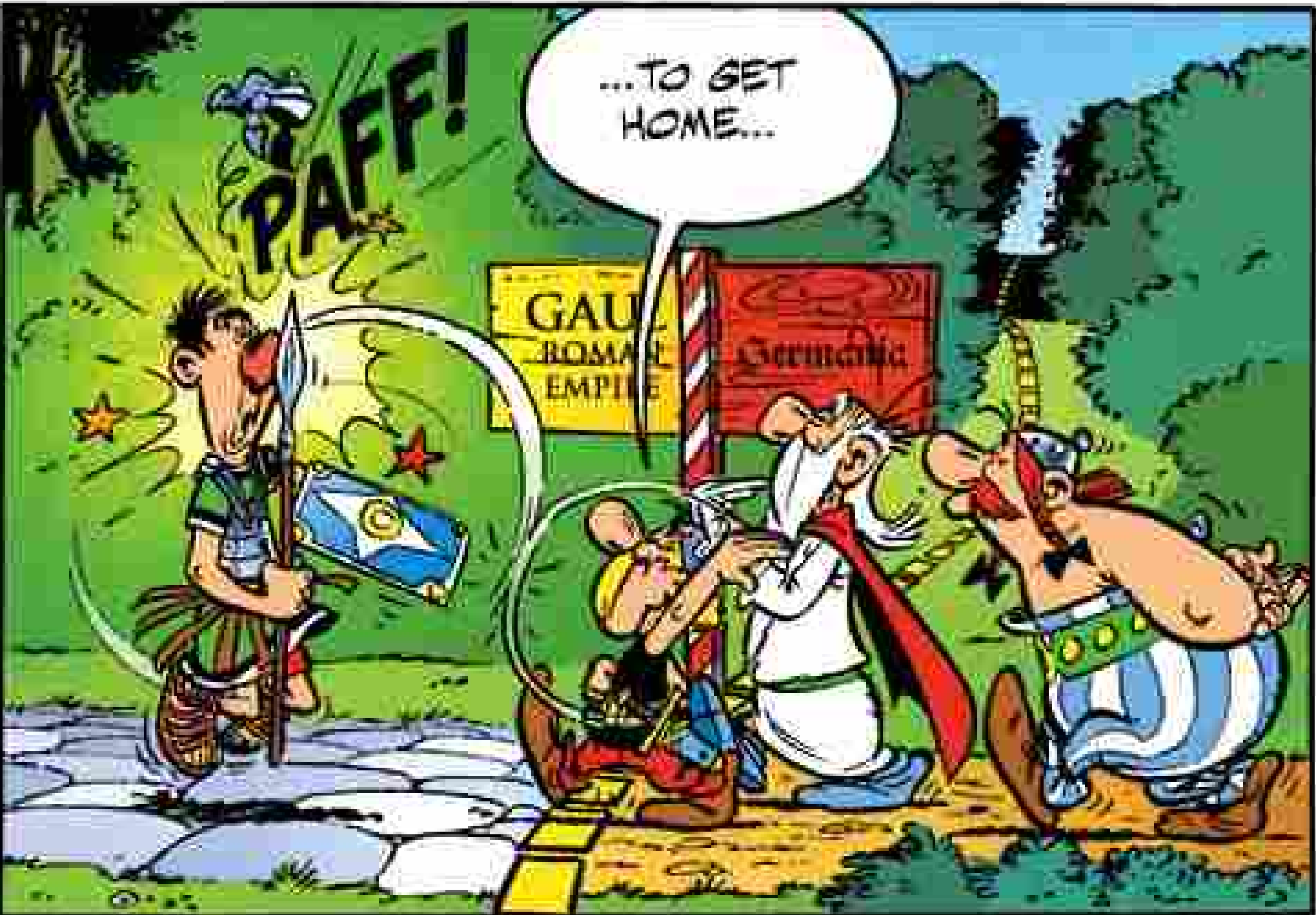
Euphoric, much annoyed, sets up camp and decides to sulk. He is surprised by Eccentric, who in his turn is attacked by Lyric, subsequently to be defeated by Electric. Electric is destined to be betrayed by Satiric, who will be beaten by Rhetoric.

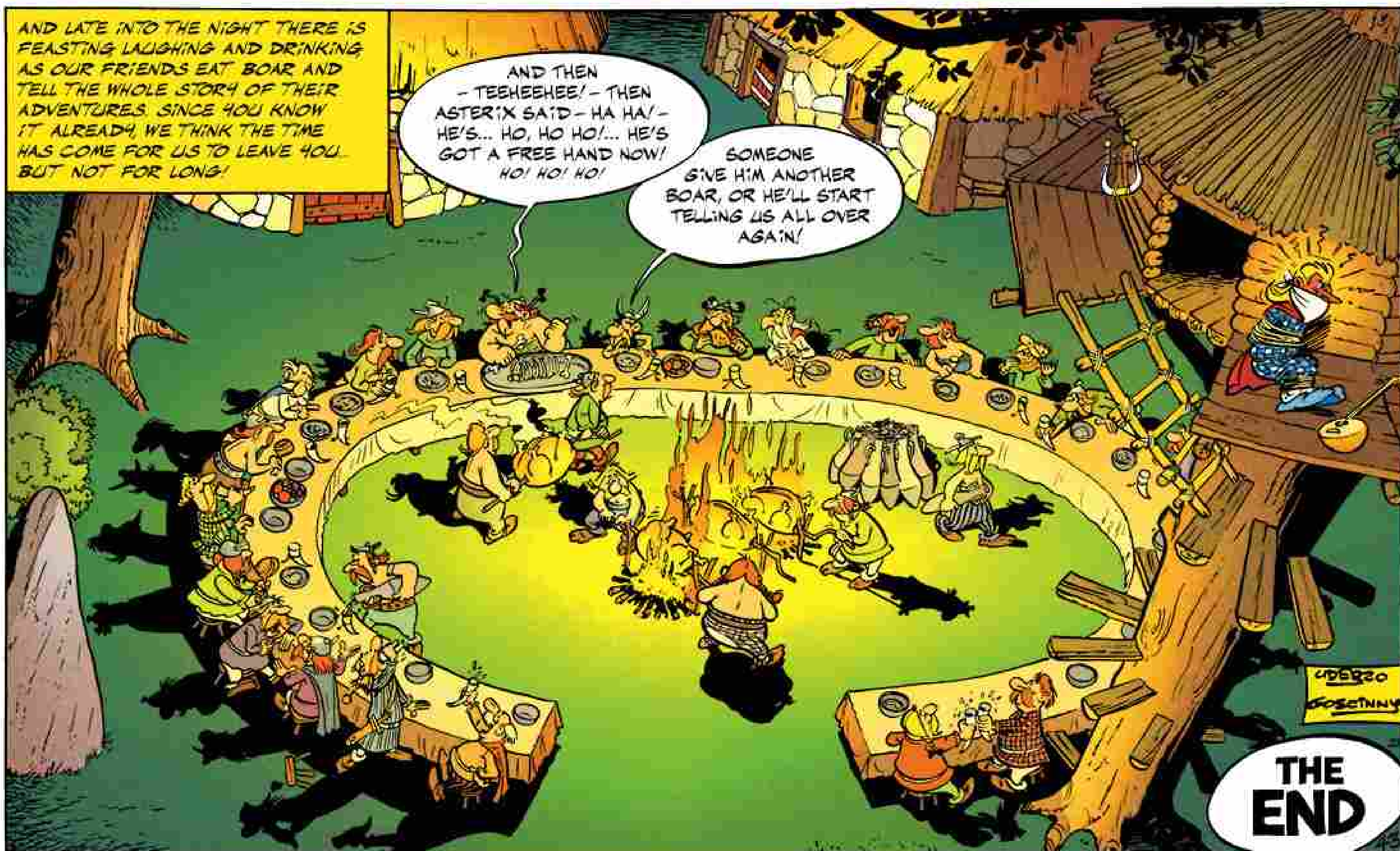


Going round a corner, Rhetoric's vanguard bumps into Metric's vanguard. Bonk! Bonk! This battle is famous in the Asterixian wars as the "Battle of the Two Losers". And so the war goes on...



MEANWHILE, OUR THREE FRIENDS ARE APPROACHING THE FRONTIER OF GAUL, WITH THEIR MINDS AT REST.









I FEEL
A BIT WEAK,
GETAFIX ...

NO, OBELIX! YOU
ARE NOT HAVING ANY MAGIC
POTION! YOU KNOW VERY WELL
YOU FELL INTO THE CAULDRON
WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, AND
IT HAD A PERMANENT
EFFECT ON YOU!

Asterix
and Obelix
escort Getafix
to the druids'
annual conference
in the Forest of the
Carnutes. Little do
they know that the
Goths are lying in
ambush, ready to kidnap
the Druid of the Year –
who of course is Getafix!
But what with Gauls,
Goths and Romans all at
odds, it's hard to tell friend
from foe . . . until Goths
begin fighting Goths in the
Asterixian Wars.

